UKRAINIAN NEWS
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lberta-Ukraine Advisory Council come soon

ein expresses "positive interest" during meeting with Scherbak

arco Levytsky

erta may become the third Canadian province to create an advisory il on Ukraine and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on trade hat country, Ukrainian News has learned.

h are already in place in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

raine's Ambassador to Canada, Yuri Scherbak confirmed this to nian News following a meeting with Alberta Premier Ralph Klein Premier's Office in Edmonton, May 9.

e agreed that an Alberta-Ukraine Advisory Council will be created with the participation of members of the government, legislature aders of the Ukrainian community, which will will begin discus- f questions related to the strengthening of our cooperation and we that, next year, a visit of the premier, along with an Alberta Team, aine, will take place and to prepare a memorandum of understand- e his signature in Ukraine. And he promised to do all this. We also that in the fall we will organize a Ukraine Business Opportunities rence here," Scherbak told Ukrainian News.

erbak also said that he and Klein agreed to develop relations that go d just economic ones, but also include culture and education.

ion Turtle, communications coordinator for the Office of the Pre- old Ukrainian News that Klein did not "commit himself on the o the advisory council, but "did express some very positive interest idea."

said the premier will be forwarding the proposal to the Ministry of bional and Intergovernmental Affairs for followup.

s an excellent idea to have an advisory council for matters that af- e Ukrainian community here in Alberta and will also have an im- to Ukrainian affairs abroad," Associate Health Minister Gene desky, who has been promoting this concept in the Alberta Progres- onservative Caucus for some time, told Ukrainian News.

ven the huge number of Ukrainians we have in Alberta, it's absolutely appropriate for the Alberta government to have an advisory council in this province," he added.

Zwozdesky said he has discussed this matter and received support from Ukrainian-origin MLA's Infrastructure Minister Ed Stelmach, Community Development Minister Stan Woloshyn, Edmonton Beverley Clareview MLA Julius Yankowsky, Calgary Mountain MLA Mark Hlady and others.

The meeting with Klein took place during Scherbak's visit to Edmonton May 6-9. He also visited Toronto May 11 and 12.

May 6 he met with the Ukrainian community in Edmonton at a reception organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress — Alberta Provincial Council (See Page 9 and 16).

May 7 he attended the National Millennium Festival of the Association of Ukrainian Canadians and delivered greetings at the banquet that followed their concert (See Page 8).

May 8 the Ambassador visited the Ukrainian Resources and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan Community College, the Canadian

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lication Mail Registration
ber paid at Edmonton, Alberta.

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, Yuri Scherbak, makes a point with Alberta Premier Ralph Klein.

Слов'янське сватання України не відбулось

Сергій Солодкий

(«День»)—Чергове показове сватання України до Російсько–Білоруського Союзу показово провалилося. Новим місцем зустрічі трьох президентів–слов'ян – Володимира Путіна, Олександра Лукашенка та Леоніда Кучми – стала Прохоровка, де 1943 року проходили запеклі бої з німецькими військами (так звана Курська дуга).

Сватання України відбулося в найкращих традиціях безкраваткової дипломатії – у Прохоровці не згадували про борги, не робили закиди в бік один одного щодо чиєїсь авторитарності... Просто зустрілись, просто поговорили про добре–старе, яке нібито–начебто–мовбито треба було б відновити. Раз по раз про це нагадували українському колезі російський та білоруський президенти. «Ми єдина сім'я. Ми маємо спільні історичні корені, спільну долю, культуру», – нагадав Володимир Путін. «Крах Радянського Союзу був найбільшою помилкою століття, що минає», – нагадав Олександр Лукашенко. Леонід Данилович, натомість, намагався уникати слов'янської інтеграційної теми і більше наголошував на справах конкретних (подеколи здавалося, що українському Президентові куди приємніше говорити про українські борги перед Росією, аніж про Слов'янський Союз). «Менше політики, більше конкретних справ», – сказав Леонід Кучма. «Жорстка лінія – не стосовно один одного, а у виконанні досягнутих домовленостей, усуненню всього, що цьому заважає», – додав український лідер.

У своїх словах Леонід Данилович уже намагався обходитися без подвійних стандартів – вашим і нашим, як траплялося не рідко раніше. Минулотижневий саміт глав країн Центральної Европи, що проходив в Угорщині, вочевидь, справив на пана Кучму більше враження, аніж недавній приїзд до України Володимира Путіна.

Схиляння України в бік Европи, вочевидь, і спонукало Мінськ та Москву нагадати Києву і про своє вагоме слово. Нагадати вирішили в місці–символі, яким і стала Прохоровка. Утім, нічого більшого, ніж символічність прохоровська зустріч і не дала. Аналітики сходяться на тому, що Леонід Данилович тільки й погодився приїхати на цю зустріч як на знак пошани до ветеранів Великої Вітчизняної війни. Одначе про те, що зустріч у Прохоровці якимось чином позначиться на українській зовнішній політиці, думати, схоже, не варто...

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Марчук повернувся на робо

(«День»)—11-го травня у Євгена Марчука, секретаря Ради Безпеки України, був перший робочий день після лютневої важкої автокатастрофи. Нагадаємо, що у Євгена Кириловича були важкі переломи кісток тазу. Та завдяки зусиллям лікарів лікарні СБУ та самого Марчука, його було в буквальному значенні «поставлено на ноги» за рекордно короткий час. По телефону кореспонденту «Дня» Євген Марчук повідомив, що всього лише декілька перших секунд після виходу на роботу були незвичними, коли він приймав поздоровлення колег. Потім почалися звичайні ділові контакти.

Першим був дзвінок від голови адміністрації Президента В. Литвина, потім – від самого Президента, який цікавився контролем за виконанням Указу за рішеннями нещодавньої Ради Безпеки щодо стану справ у енергетиці. Після короткої доповіді Леоніду Кучмі вже безпосередньо під час зустрічі, Євген Марчук потім узяв участь в засіданні Ради кримськотатарського народу. За словами Євгена Кириловича, попри низку серйозних вимог, навряд чи у представників меджлісу є підстави для якихось протестних акцій 18 травня, в річницю депортації.

Серед найближчих плянів РНБО(У) – ...товка засідання з проблем Збройних сил ... та руху позабанківських коштів, ... капіталу. Хоча свій перший робочий день Марчук почав після приїзду зі шпиталю, ... вже дали «добро» на остаточну виписку.

– Лікарі помітили реальний прогрес у ... відновного процесу в нашого пацієнта, – ... «Дню» начальник військово-медичного управління Служби Безпеки України, проф. Михайло ... раш. – Природно, що, дозволяючи Євгену Кириловичу приступити до роботи, ми все ... радить протягом перших двох–трьох ... утриматися від повного робочого дня. Тому, яким насиченим був порядок денний ... пацієнта у шпиталі, ми радимо робити ... перерви (година–дві) протягом дня. З обсягом процедур Євгену Кириловичу «проп... лікувальну фізкультуру, масаж. Уже можна ... лити плавання, що дуже добре для відн... всіх функцій організму після тривалого ... бування в нерухомому стані. Проте, ... преесвідчитися ваші кореспонденти, Євген Кирилович уже сам майже відновив повні навантажень. Є надія, що все буде нор...

Викрито «авторитета на замовлення

На його рахунку вісім злочинів проти держслужбовців К...

Наталя Трофімова

(«День»)—Замовником восьми злочинів на державних службовців, скоєних у період із 1997 по 2000 рік у Києві, є директор ТОВ «ТОП–Сервіс», громадянин Росії Ігор Шагін. Про це на прес–конференції 11–го травня в Києві повідомив прокурор столиці Юрій Гайсинський.

Усього, як повідомив перший заступник прокурора Києва Віктор Шевченко, за період 1997–2000 рр. було розкрито 12 убивств на замовлення, серед яких убивство відомого кримінального авторитета Князєва, убивство в серпні 1997 р. заступника начальника податкової адміністрації Жовтневого району Києва Тамари Коліушко, замахи та вбивство у квітні минулого року голови райдержадміністрації Жовтневого району Києва Миколи Підмогильного, тощо. Посадові особи, за словами Юрія Гайсинського, постраждали за «принципове» виконання своїх службових обов'язків. Зокрема, Тамара Коліушко поцікавилася поверненням сум ПДВ із вартості продуктів, які експорту... «ТОП–Сервіс» до Росії.

Цього моменту Ігор Шагін перебуває в ... ненні. Труднощі в розкритті зазначених зл... за словами першого заступника начальника ... МВС України в Києві Дмитра Опанасенка, ... пров'язані з тим, що за «цією комер... структурою стояли певні сили – один із ... депутатів», який рік тому керував фірмою «... Сервіс», хоча, як неодноразово було підкр... на прес–конференції, його причетність ... злочинної діяльності колишнього дітини ... не доведено.

Викриття злочинного угруповання під ... ництвом Шагіна, яке протягом останніх ... виконує злочини на замовлення, за сл... Віктора Шевченка, є «можливо, єдиним ... в Україні, коли всіх – і посередників, і ... – заарештовано. Затримано також людину, ... постачала зброю».

Харківщина на порозі інвестиційного рост...

Михайло Біденко

(«День»)—Харківське обласне управління статистики зазначила істотне зростання обсягів іноземних інвестицій в економіку області. За три перші місяці поточного року загальний обсяг інвестицій становив $42 мільйони, що більш ніж у 6 разів більше, ніж за відповідний період торік. Основною формою інвестування цього року стали грошові вклади, обсяг яких становив понад половину загальної суми. Трохи менше ($20,8 мільйона) вкладено у вигляді рухомого й нерухомого майна. Як наслідок загальний обсяг прямих іноземних інвестицій в економіку Харківської області становив понад $100 мільйонів, що на 75 відсотків більше, ніж на 1 квітня минулого року.

Лідером щодо інвестицій стала ФРН, ... якої вклали в народне господарство Харк... майже $22 мільйони. А от прямі інвест... країн СНД і Балтії за останній рік збільш... лише на $3,5 тисячі. Показовим є й ... енергетичні галузі, які вважаються найпр... ковішими у світі, за 10 останніх років інв... вкладали лише один раз – в реконстр... Шебелінського газоконденсатного заводу, ... це повідомив начальник Управління енер... та паливно–енергетичного комплексу обл... адміністрації Володимир Углов. Очев... інвесторів лякає заплутана й обтяжена бю... ситуація на українському енергоринку.

Слава Стецько про ОУН УП...

Марина Пирожук

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Київ, 9 травня 2000. Інтерв'ю у напр... депутата України Слави Стецько:

– Пані Славо, зараз усі говорять про необхід-ність реаб... ОУН УПА. Але насправді ні-чого реально не зроблено ... цього. Як би Ви це прокоментували? Чи насправді цього ... українська влада?

– Я думаю, що українська влада у переважній більш... «совєтською». І тому перемогу у війні святкує Совєтський ... Стільки людей загину-ло за Україну, за її незалежність, ... які воювали проти німецького загарбника. І коли сьогодн... згадки про це немає, це дуже сумно.

Думаю, що таке приховування є обдурюванням молодої ... яка повинна–таки знати правду. Кажуть, що були ст... спеціяльні комісії для вирішення цього питання при К... міністрів та при Верховній Раді. Їхня мета – щось дослід... Але що тут досліджувати? Народ є свідком, повно усяких ... документів у архівах КДБ та Німеччини.

Час потребує, аби на найвищому рівні була встановл... справедливість. І щоб бійці ОУН УПА, які воюва... самостійність України, були визнані героями, як ті, що во... у лавах Червоної Армії.

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...ina Bashuk Hepburn, President UCC, Ottawa taking Ambassador Scherbak through the receiving line of ...ainian community leaders. L to R: Rev. I. Kutash - Orthodox Church, Rev. Mykytiuk - Catholic Church, A. ...ruchko - UNO, M. Sikorski - LUC. With bread and salt Oleh Replyansky and Lisa Boyachok.

UCC Ottawa welcomes Scherbak

(UCC Ottawa)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, ...wa, was the first organization in Canada to host a ...come to Canada Reception for the new Ukrainian ...ssador Yuri Scherbak on April 16 at the Ukrai... Orthodox Auditorium.

"It is a privilege to welcome the fifth Ambassador ... Ukraine to Canada. W have been following his ...ings and political career for numerous years and ...delighted to have a distinguished and seasoned rep...tative of Ukraine in Ottawa," said Oksana Bashuk ...burn, President UCC Ottawa at the event.

...r. Scherbak served as the first Ambassador of ...aine to Israel and from 1994-98 as Ambassador to ...USA. His views on Ukraine's foreign policy and ...ion in international relations are laid out in The ...egic Role of Ukraine, Harvard University Press, ...ber. Prior to coming to Canada he was the For... Policy Advisor to the President.

...e Ambassador, visibly pleased to meet leaders and ...bers of the Ukrainian Ottawa community, appears ...e a mandate to rejuvenate Canada Ukraine rela... "My government wishes to give Ukraine's rela... with Canada new impetus," he said, "Ukraine ... Canada. This the country of equality, ...ulturalism and justice." These ideas were not ...oned from the floor.

...e underscored that Ukraine's Prime Minister is fo...d on "open and honest politics" and seemed ...d to report that the PM has the highest rating of ...government in Ukraine to date.

...companied by his wife Maria, with whom he has ...children, and members of the Embassy, he was clear ...ng that: "I represent the government of Ukraine ...'s dedicated above all, to the preservation of the ...rity of the territories of Ukraine. The priorities of ...Ukrainian government include economic reforms and improved trade."

To a question from Eugene Shtendera dealing with the recognition of the status of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as a legal military entity, the Ambassador replied that the issue is on the right track, but will take more time. "Already, there is recognition of those who fought the Germans. We are now looking to the experiences of other countries like Spain, who handled similar conflict in a sane manner. This is not as sharp an issue as it used to be."

He received spontaneous applause from the mixed Ukrainian and English speaking audience by answering to a question concerning the use of Ukrainian language. "Yuschenko will not tolerate the use of the Russian language in government matters."

Ambassador Scherbak is a graduate of the Kyiv Medical Institute; an award-winning author of 20 books of poetry, plays, and essays; and a distinguished cinematographer. His work Chornobyl and works on Stalin's artificial Famine in Ukraine are widely known.

His political career is equally rich: non-communist member of the former Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet; Chair of the Committee investigating the Chornobyl accident; founder of Zeleny Svit, the Green Party of Ukraine; Minister of the Environment and member of the National Security and Defence Council.

The proceeds of the event, attended by some 200 people, will go to the UCC Famine Scholarship Fund and the Ukrainian Social Services. Olha Sametz, Souz Ukrajinok, who together with the President of the UCWL Danya Popowych organized the reception was pleased with the impact the Ambassador had on the community "He is warm and open", she said. The wine for the reception was donated by Buduchnist Credit Union, Ottawa, a frequent supporter of community undertakings in Canada's capital.

...cherbak visits Edmonton, Toronto

...ed, from P. 1

...e of Ukrainian Studies, the Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture ...Folklore, both at the University of Alberta, where he also led a semi... on the Chornobyl disaster and met with Dr. Orest Gauk, who informed ...about the work of the Osvita Foundation.

...sday Ambassador Scherbak also met with the Editorial Board of the ...ston Journal and with Archbishop John Stinka of the Western Dio... of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

...y 9 was his government day as the Ambassador met with Interna... and Intergovernmental Affairs Shirley McLellan, Associate health ...ter Zwozdesky, Legislater Speaker Ken Kowalski, was hosted at a ...rnment House luncheon by Infrastructure Minister Stelmach and met ...premier Klein.

...bassador Scherbak also visited the monuments to the victims of the ...e and the 100 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

...Toronto, on May 11, he met with Lieutenant Governor Hillary Weston, ...Temerty, President of Northland Power, which, with the State Prop... Fund of Ukraine, operates the Ukr-Can Joint Venture renovating the ...ytsia Heat and Power Plant near Kyiv, the representative of Air Ukraine ...ada and historian Dr. Orest Subtelny of York University.

...y 12 Ambassador Scherbak with with Chrystia Freeland, Deputy ...of the Globe and Mail and with Petro Jacyk, Founder of the Petro ...Educational Foundation.

...l afternoon he held a press conference with the Ukrainian media ...next issue) and met with the Ukrainian community (see Page 9 and

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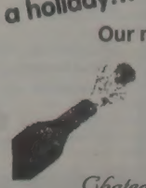

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Маловідомі факти про Чорнобильську катастрофу

Наталія Баландюк

(Радіо «Свобода»)—З часу чорнобильської аварії пройшло 14 років. Її наслідки для здоров'я нації відомі. Однак маловідомі факти ще випливають на поверхню. Саме вони дають зрозуміти, чому наслідки аварії виявилися такими страхітливими.

Упродовж 10 років українські медики кодували хвороби щитовидної залози і не визнавали вплив опромінення. А хворим українським дітям ставили передчасно хрест. Натомість життя цих дітей рятували французькі лікарі.

У 17–річного киянина Віктора Козлова хрипкий голос – наслідок двох операцій, пов'язаних з раком щитовидної залози. Але це – не найгірше, що могло з ним статися.

«Марно шукати ліки, вони вашому сину навряд чи допоможуть. Для таких, як він, у нашій країні немає лікування», – таким був найперший висновок лікаря.

Симптоми невідомої хвороби прогресували, а лікарі у відповідь розводили руками. 1990 р. Віктор був одним з перших, кого прооперували в столичному Інституті ендокринології та обміну речовин. Операцію зробили, а необхідного для профіляктики радіоактивного йоду не виявилося. Дістати його було важче, аніж молоко райської пташки. А якщо йод з'являвся, то призначена доза, на думку деяких лікарів, була для дітей надто дорогою розкішшю. Один з лікарів так і заявив матері Віктора, мовляв, «цю дозу можна легко поділити чотирьом і нічого не доведете».

Щоправда, був ще один варіянт отримати жаданий йод, але за 2–3 тисячі «зелених». Здоров'я хлопця погіршувалося, а лікарі запевняли, що їхні можливості вичерпано.

Згідно з офіційними джерелами, зараз в Україні раком щитовидної залози хворіють в 10 разів частіше, ніж у дочорнобильський період. У Европі на мільйон населення реєструють один випадок раку щитовидної залози. В Україні – 286 на мільйон.

Українські лікарі упродовж десяти років після аварії вперто не визнавали, що хвороби щитовидної залози, в тому числі і рак, викликані радіоактивним опроміненням. Тільки зараз почали бити на сполох. У медичній термінології у зв'язку з цим навіть з'явилося словосполучення «група ризику».

Якщо вам на момент катастрофи було до 18 років, то можете сміливо себе зарахувати до цієї когорти. Оскільки, як стверджують медики, не сьогодні, то завтра вам можуть поставити діягноз однієї з захворювань щитовидки. Причому ймовірність захворіти у 8 разів вища у тих, хто більше ковтнув радіоактивного йоду. Сьогодні такими є мешканці Рівненської, Житомирської, Черкаської та Київської областей.

56 безробітних на одну вакансію

(«День»)—Справжнім лихом стало на Рівненщині безробіття. За офіційними даними служби зайнятості, в області зареєстровані як безробітні близько шістдесяти тисяч осіб. У той же час в першому кварталі нинішнього року вдалося знайти роботу менш ніж трьом з половиною тисячам осіб. У середньому на одну вакансію претендує п'ятдесят шість безробітних. А в деяких аграрних районах області на одну вакансію конкурс досягає ста п'ятдесяти осіб. І в найближчому майбутньому ситуація на ринку праці Рівненщини, скоріше за все, буде погіршуватися. Особливо важке становище у випускників шкіл і вузів. Сьогодні молоді люди становлять майже половину всіх безробітних області.

Чому міністр оборони каже, щ Україна не прагне до НАТО

Сергій Згурець

(Радіо «Свобода»)— Україна не має наміру приєднуватись до НАТО. Так заявив міністр оборони країни Олександр Кузьмук, який 9 травня разом з президентом України відвідав російське село Новоселиці. Там поховано батька Леоніда Кучми, який загинув у Другій світовій війні. Перспектива приєднання України до НАТО, звісно, турбує Росію. Проте заява Кузьмука щодо перспектив стосунків України з НАТО мала скоріше не зовнішню, а внутрішньополітичну спрямованість – з огляду на ті проблеми, що стоять, перед українською армією.

Після того, як військова ракета влучила у цивільний будинок у Броварах, спричинивши людських жертв, міністр оборони України старанно намагається зробити усе від нього залежне, аби якось виправдити досить негативне ставлення громадян країни до дій військових. Відтак, Олександр Кузьмук значно частіше почав зустрічатись з журналістами та виголошувати різні заяви.

Цього разу у Росії він заявив про те, що Україна не збирається вступати до НАТО. Звісно, в Росії казати щось інше якось не зручно. Тим більше, що нічого нового тут немає – Київ, як зазначено в базових зовнішньополітичних документах країн, просто прагне до інтеграції з европейськими та евроатлантичними структурами. А слово «інтеграція» звучить значно безпечніше і не так категорично, як слово «вступ».

Проте нині контакти з НАТО мають для чільного військового керівництва України одну складову, яка, здається, викликає подра Міністра оборони. Посадові особи та е НАТО, як засвідчують останні перего зустрічі, наголошують на тому, що Укр почати кардинальні військові реформи. про певні зміни у структурі: армія ма більш мобільною і зменшити свою чисе Адже Київ не може фінансово задовол потреби, що має 310–тисячна армія поза країни.

У той же час, генерали стоять на то плян оборонних реформ у державі з д 2005 року вже існує. І спочатку треба усе заплановане, а потім захоплюватись ініціятивами. Сам Кузьмук нещодавно з «Досвід НАТО ми використовуємо. А ніколи не копіювали його. І не збираємось цього в майбутньому, бо цей досвід є ко лише у тому разі, якщо він відповідає на ним особливостям».

Міністр оборони також переконаний, урахуванням позаблокового статусу Ук неприпустимо порівнювати показники чисе Збройних Сил України із загальноевропей показниками. Там відсоток замілітаризов держав є меншим.

Відтак, можна очікувати, що нинішнє ві керівництво України і надалі буде повтор звичну тезу, що Україна не прагне всту НАТО. У іншому випадку, Кузьмуку буд важко нехтувати рекомендаціями партне альянсу.

У Львові зупинився електротранспо

У перше за 100 років

Олександр Сирцов

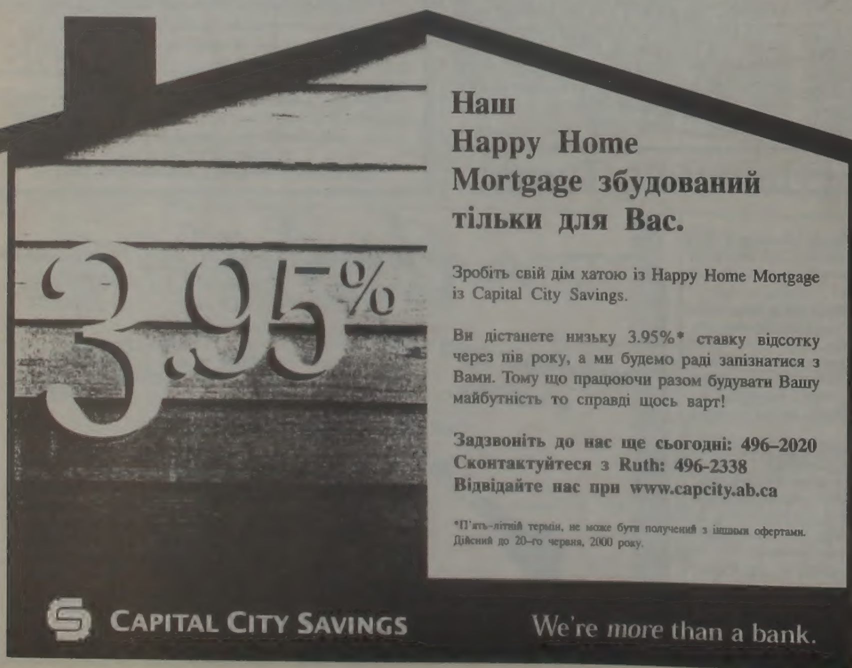
(«День»)—4 травня львів'яни зіткнулися із незвичною проблемою – на вулиці міста не виїхав жоден трамвай та тролейбус. Маршрутні таксі були переповнені. Директор міського комунального підприємства «Львівелектротранс» Богдан Бедрило повідомив «Дню», що напередодні Великодніх свят він отримав попередження від «Львівобленерго» про відключення його підприємства. Оскільки дні були святкові, то якось вирішити проблему не було можливості.

Богдан Бедрило вважає, що енергетики вчинили з його підприємством несправедливо. Адже поточні виплати – частково грошима, частково векселями воно здійснює. Крім цього, якщо на початок року загальна заборгованість «Львівелектротрансу» перед «Львівобленерго» складала 2,574 тис. грн., то станом на 1 квітня – 2,443 тис. грн. Тепер підприємство опинилося в г куті, оскільки з реалізації разових пр талонів воно щодня збирає 35,000 грн. того, на думку пана Богдана Бедрила, д не в повному обсязі розраховуєть перевезення пільговиків.

Електротранспортники твердять, що в ситуації держава або повинна відмовитись надання пільг на транспорт, або ж дозв перевезення пільговиків в окремі дні чи го Богдан Бедрило твердить, що має намір п в суд «Львівобленерго».

Зауважимо, що за більш ніж сторічну іс найстарішого в Україні львівського тра він зупинився вперше. Трамваї перев пасажирів навіть під час Другої світової коли в місті мінялася влада.

Ситуація у Львові може погіршитися, «Львівобленерго» погрожує повністю прип постачання електрики для освітлення вул



У Запоріжж – ботулізм

(«День»)—Лікарі міської тарної станції Запоріжжя на сполох. У реанімації Ц екстремальної медицини у кому стані одинадцять чо Діагноз – ботулізм. Дванад потерпілого, 39–річну ж врятувати не вдалося. З п року, це друга смерть.

Як зазначив головний са ний лікар Запоріжжя В Близнюк, насторожує дин поширення захворювання. за весь минулий рік риб м'ясними продуктами домаш го приготування отруїлися чоловік, двоє з них загин то тільки за першу поло травневих свят нинішнього на лікарняні ліжка потра четверо.

Реаніматорів приведено йової готовності. Створено звичайну епідеміологічну сію. Лікарні в терміново рядку забезпечені антибот вою сироваткою. Правоохор органи проводять «зачи міських ринків. Продаж м' і рибних продуктів до тільки за наявності серти якості. З населенням ве активна роз'яснювальна р через засоби масової інфор

Yushchenko looks for support in Washington

Monitor)—Ukrainian Prime Minister Yushchenko headed a government delon to Washington for a May 8-10 visit. years into Ukraine's independence, henko became the first Ukrainian prime er to be received by a U.S. president. shchenko's main goal in Washington was ain political and economic support for overnment's reform programs. elations with international financial itations. Yushchenko's visit was partly hadowed by recent allegations both that National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) had d International Monetary Fund mon- and that it had overstated the value of 's gold and hard currency reserves in its 08 reports to the IMF, when Yushchenko lf was NBU chairman. The allegations d the IMF to delay the resumption of ng to Ukraine and to commission an audit the NBU by Price WaterhouseCoopers. first part of that audit, made public 27 found no evidence of misuse of the s, in effect laying to rest that part of the tions. It did, however, determine that the U had overstated the value of its gold and currency reserves in reports which were al basis for certain IMF loans which ht otherwise have been denied in 1997-

shchenko made the case that the discrepy had arisen from accounting methods in that time. The NBU had had no reserves own until 1996 and did not quickly farize itself with Western accounting meth-

t September the IMF suspended disments from a US$2.6 billion Extended lity Fund in response to the slowdown on s in Ukraine. Resumption of the disments seemed in the cards after Presi- Leonid Kuchma's reelection and the apment of Yushchenko's reformist govern-

ut the allegations against the NBU, which seemed to reflect on Yushchenko person- prolonged the suspension of lending. In of the early results of the audit, Kyiv expects to receive in June an IMF del- which may recommend the resump- of lending in order to support the nment's reform program. The World k would in that case also resume its susded lending programs to Ukraine. But the eration of the NBU is only one of the itions. The IMF and World Bank expect government to focus on reforming the y sector, agriculture and the civil ser- e as top priorities in the months ahead.

Chornobyl. The delegation reaffirmed the inian leadership's political decision to e the Chornobyl nuclear power plant's last ating nuclear reactor by the end of 2000. ern countries have long demanded that ine take that step for safety reasons, but have yet to raise the promised funds required for the plant's decommissioning.

In Washington, the Ukrainians defended two original premises of the decision to close Chornobyl: first, that the safety hazard is of an international character, necessitating an international response; and, second, that safety issues will persist long after the plant's closure, requiring long-term financial and technical efforts from both Ukraine and her Western partners.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright renewed in general terms the earlier pledges, in which she was joined by Germany's foreign affairs minister, Joschka Fischer, at a common news conference in Washington. Fischer's Green Party is a leading antinuclear force in Europe. Albright and Fischer agreed that funds for Chornobyl's closure and for constructing a permanent sarcophagus over the reactor would be a "welcome gift to the people of Ukraine and a great environmental victory for all of Europe."

For those reasons, Kyiv expects its Western partners to raise the necessary funds at the Chornobyl donors' conference, which is scheduled for July in Berlin with the participation of the European Union and G-7 countries. That conference should fulfill at least in part the commitments undertaken by those countries in the December 1995 Ottawa Memorandum with Ukraine on the terms of Chornobyl's closure.

• **Corruption.** According to Yushchenko, the American side "raised with utmost severity" and "at every meeting" the problem of corruption, seen as a major hindrance to internal economic reforms and to international investments in Ukraine. The U.S. officials, moreover, termed corruption in Ukraine a problem of the state rather than one of the society. Yushchenko outlined a number of planned anti-corruption measures, including curbs on barter settlements and other nonmonetary forms of payment, closing tax loopholes and eliminating "oligarchic" windfall profits in the energy market.

• **International Trade.** The U.S. officials made it clear that Ukraine's goals to be admitted to the World Trade Organization and to receive the "market economy" status in trade with the United States are not close at hand. Ukraine can advance along both tracks in parallel, depending on the scope and pace of internal reforms.

Along with a readiness to provide legal and technical advice toward that end, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky brought up the American concern regarding production of audio and video goods and computer software by pirate firms in Ukraine. Washington estimates the resulting losses to U.S. industry at more than US$200 million annually and proposes to work jointly with Kyiv to end this unlicensed trade.

Tkachenko accused of misusing funds

FE/RL)—An investigative team of lawers has charged former speaker Oleksandr chenko with mishandling more than 50 lion hryvni (US$9.3 million) in legislative get funds, Interfax reported on May 16. The team recommended that the parliament the Prosecutor-General's Office to look their findings to determine whether a inal case should be launched. Tkachenko dismissed the charges, adding that the investigative team was created to compromise the legitimate parliamentary leadership.

He noted that he is still a legitimate parliamentary leader and asked the parliament to postpone the decision on the team's appeal until the Constitutional Court rules on the legality of his ouster during the parliamentary standoff early this year.

Naftogaz and Gazprom reach agreement

astern Economist)—NaftoGaz Ukrainy Russian Gasprom reached an agreement he Ukrainian debts stated acting Chair of oGaz Ukrainy Ihor Didenko, May 10. He added that this agreement was reached the meeting of President Leonid Kuchma Russian President Vladimir Putin. urrently the gas debt is US$1.393 billion h is significantly less than the amount ounced by Deputy Premier Yulia oshenko," said Didenko.

He also added that the debts owed to NaftoGaz Ukrainy are Hr 20 billion "which is significantly higher than the debts of the company to its suppliers."

During the first quarter of 2000 energy companies did not pay for either current or past supplies and at the same time energy generators received their gas from Russian Itera.

The government began directing all funds for payments to Itera which in turn froze all debts with NaftoGaz, he stated.

Audit report damages relations between Ukraine and IMF

(JF Monitor)—When Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko's mid-May visit to Washington was initially planned, discussions were expected to concentrate on regaining International Monetary Fund support for Ukraine's reform efforts.

At stake was the resumption of disbursements from the US$2.6 billion Extended Fund Facility, which have been on hold since September 1999. Ukraine is slated to repay some $800 million to the Fund this year, and lack of additional financing from Washington, combined with low foreign currency reserves, could put Kyiv on the verge of a balance-of-payments crisis.

Ukraine's economic performance was particularly impressive in the first quarter of 2000 — GDP is reported up 5.6 percent during this time — and there are signs that the IMF is slowly moving towards resumption of financing.

However, the discussions have been complicated by the May 4 publication of an audit by the PricewaterhouseCoopers international accounting firm. The report showed that Ukraine overstated its foreign exchange reserves by up to $713 million in order to win $200 million in loans from the IMF in 1997.

The possible misuse of IMF funds was first raised in a Financial Times interview with former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who charged that high officials in the Ukrainian government and National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) had personally profited from the misuse of foreign exchange reserves that had been provided by the IMF. Yushchenko, who prior to his appointment as prime minister had been NBU governor, vehemently denied these allegations, and the NBU agreed to permit PricewaterhouseCoopers to perform an independent audit of its foreign exchange transactions during 1995-2000.

During the course of the audit, Ukrainian officials admitted that some of the NBU's reserves were put in long-term deposits with foreign banks and used as collateral for foreign currency bonds issued in 1995. However, the auditors were unable to find any evidence that IMF funds had been used for personal gain, either in Ukraine or abroad. Instead, the NBU seems to have been guilty of overstating its foreign exchange reserves, in order to reduce the interest rate it had to pay on the bonds issued in 1995.

But instead of putting Ukraine back in the IMF's good financial graces, the report and the surrounding atmosphere may have seriously damaged relations between the IMF and Kyiv. Ukraine is once again being "tarred with the Russian brush" since, in the wake of charges that IMF and World Bank monies were misused by the Russian government during the 1990s, the Fund and the World Bank are going out of their way to even avoid the appearance of improper lending to CIS countries. This could cause Yushchenko's negotiations on the resumption of IMF and World Bank financing to drag on for weeks. In the end, Ukraine's strategic importance as perceived in Washington could well result in the resumption of IMF and World Bank funding. From now on, however, Ukraine's use of disbursements will be monitored more closely than ever before.

Ukraine willing to serve as peacekeeper in Karabakh, Abkhazia

(JF Monitor)—In Kyiv, May 15, President Leonid Kuchma and Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk discussed with Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Vilayet Guliev the possibility of Ukraine's participation in a peacekeeping operation in Karabakh.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe envisages such an operation, once Armenia and Azerbaijan will have signed a political agreement that would make possible the deployment of international peacekeeping troops.

Azerbaijan would especially value the participation of Ukraine as a fellow-member of the GUUAM (Georgia-Ukraine-Uzbekistan-Azerbaijan-Moldova) group of countries. In the course of the Kyiv meeting, Guliev cited with some emphasis the statements made by Kuchma during his visit to Azerbaijan in March.

On that occasion, the Ukrainian president identified with Azerbaijan's position in the dispute with Armenia over Karabakh. He strongly endorsed the principle of the territorial integrity of states as opposed to that of national self-determination, and he called for the early and unconditional return of Azeri refugees to their homes in the solidly Azeri areas, seized by Armenian forces outside Karabakh.

In late April, Ukraine's envoy Stepan Volkovetsky reaffirmed in Tbilisi that Ukraine fully supports the Georgian government's position on settling the conflict in Abkhazia on the basis of Georgia's territorial integrity and the return of refugees. Concurrently, Kyiv renewed its offer to host an international peace conference on Abkhazia.

The Abkhaz leadership on May 1 turned down that offer and ruled out any Ukrainian role in an international peacekeeping operation.

The Abkhaz want Russia to continue in the capacity of sole "peacekeeper" in the name of the CIS. That is a shared Russian-Abkhaz position; but Moscow finds it convenient to have reaffirmed periodically by Abkhazia.

On May 11, Belarusan President Alyaksandr Lukashenka made that position his own. Meeting with CIS Executive Committee Chairman Yuri Yarov in Minsk, Luka-shenka stated that "Belarus categorically opposes the introduction in Abkhazia of any peacekeeping troops other than those of Russia;" and he pledged to veto any such initiative at the upcoming CIS summit in Moscow.

Crimea wants investigation of bond swindle

(Eastern Economist)—The Crimean government on May 15 appealed to President Leonid Kuchma and the Prosecutor General to begin an investigation into the issuing of the 1996 Crimean bonds.

The appeal states the agents behind the financial swindle involving the bonds are responsible for the arrest of the Finance Minister Liudmyla Denysova and Agriculture Minister Mykola Orlovskiy.

The Crimean government goes on to add the bonds were issued for Hr 120 million with a yield of Hr 494 million. A mere Hr 20 million was paid to the budget and the bulk of profits was transferred to the accounts of two off-shore companies.

A source in the Crimean government said the Slovyanskiy bank received the bonds from the Crimean government and transferred them to the off-shore companies.

The first tranche of bonds were issued in 1996 while Anatoliy Demydenko was Prime Minister of Crimea and the second tranche in 1997 when the government was headed by Anatoliy Franchuk.

It was Franchuk who extended the circulation of the bonds for two years from 1998 to 2000.

According to members of the Crimean government, the Finance Minister's arrest was prompted by her refusal to secretly repay the bonds, despite heavy pressure. Instead Denysova insisted that the money be paid to the budget.

The bond swindle came to light when Ukrainian prosecutors began an investigation of Slovyanskiy Bank's transactions. May 10. Finance Minister Denysova was arrested by local police and was kept in detention for more than seven hours before being released.

AUUC moderates moving in the right directio

But serious obstacles to an historic reconciliation still exist

Editorial

Since we last discussed the issue of relations between the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the mainstream Ukrainian Canadian community two years ago some progress has been made in improving the relations.

It should be noted that for the first time in the history of the AUUC the organization displayed the blue and yellow flag at one of its concerts, when it held the National Millennium Festival at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium. Also for the first time, the AUUC in its program booklet acknowledged the existence of the 1932-33 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine and the Stalinist terror in Ukraine during the 1930's. Their characterization of the third wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada was relatively positive. It read as follows: "In most respects, their ultimate achievements in the new homeland compares favourably with those of their peer generation of descendants of the Ukrainians who came in the two earlier immigrations."

Compared with what the AUUC used to write about the third wave this is definitely a step in the right direction as are the other abovementioned firsts. It is no secret that the AUUC is divided between a moderate group which wants to establish connections with the mainstream Ukrainian community in Canada and hardliners who insist on clinging to the organization's pro-Communist past. Judging from the concert and the program booklet, the *moderates* appear to be gaining ground. Also, since the last editorial on this subject appeared in Ukrainian News, the AUUC has not taken any action (like inviting Sol Littman to speak at a conference) that the mainstream community would find offensive. There may be room for some informal cooperation between the mainstream community and the AUUC where both find common ground, such as promoting Ukrainian culture and education or assisting Ukraine. There already is a certain level of this informal cooperation as evidenced by the participation of several mainstream community artists in the AUUC concert.

Nevertheless it would be premature to talk of any formal links between the AUUC and the mainstream community at the present time because certain obstacles still exist. It should be noted that anything written as a Ukrainian News editorial cannot be interpreted as officially representing the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. As an independent newspaper Ukrainian News does not represent the official views of any Ukrainian organization. However, as an independent newspaper whose readership represents the broadest spectrum of members of all Ukrainian organizations and churches as well as the broadest spectrum of the Ukrainian community in Canada in geographic terms, what appears in this space can usually be construed to represent the general public opinion of the mainstream Ukrainian community in Canada (and we probably have more AUUC readers than any other Ukrainian newspaper except for the AUUC's own Ukrainian Canadian Herald).

It is under these parameters that we say any formal link between the AUUC and the UCC is impossible at this time because conflicts on certain issues of principle still exist between the AUUC and the UCC and it is these conflicts which preclude the admission of the AUUC into the UCC.

In the first place the AUUC is in direct conflict with the UCC on the Denaturalization and Deportation issue. On March 15, 1998 the AUUC National Committee endorsed this policy. In October 1998 delegates to the 19th triennial congress of the UCC UNANIMOUSLY condemned it. They did this for a reason. No evidence is being brought forward that respondents in the D and D cases committed any war crimes. There are many other reasons as well and they have been documented repeatedly in this space.

The other major bone of contention is all the slanderous material about the First Division of the Ukrainian National Army, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and even the Ukrainian Catholic Church which was published in the AUUC press and in booklets put out by Kobzar Publishing. One particularly striking example of what we are talking about was the 1984 booklet "Here is the Evidence", the cover of which featured a Nazi swastika imprinted upon the Ukrainian trident with an upside down Ukrainian flag as the background. Much of the current leadership of the UCC consists of people whose parents belonged or still belong to the above-mentioned organizations and were brought up in such youth organizations as SUM, which is affiliated with one faction of the OUN, or Plast which isn't affiliated with any other organization, but the parents of whose members often did belong. These people do not take kindly their parents being labeled as collaborators and furthermore material only helps those who choose to discredit the Ukrainian community. Until these statements have been officially withdrawn by the AUUC they will remain a major obstacle to any formal association. (Please note we are not "officially retracted", not "on your knees until they bleed".)

As we have noted, the AUUC, particularly its moderate elements has taken many steps which improve the relations with the mainstream community. However, obstacles still remain and we hope the AUUC leadership takes our suggestions to heart and works toward removing these obstacles so an historic reconciliation can take place.

UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

Suite #1, 12227 - 107 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta, T5M 1Y9
UN Office: (780) 488-3693; Advertising: (780) 488-3860
Fax: (780) 488-3859; E-mail: ukrnews@compusmart.ab.ca

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Editor: Marco Levytsky
Hon. Kyiv Bureau Chief: Vitaliy Shevchenko
Advertising,Typesetting & Layout: Irena Hladki
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Редактор: Марко Левицький
Поч. Гол. Київського Бюра: Віталій Шевченко
Оголошення та Мистецька підготовка: Ірена Гладкі
Передплати та розповсюд: Марія Раш

Українські Вісті видає дво–тижнево *Едмонтон Лайзерграфікс, Відділ Кенейдіен Криптикс Лтд.* Річна передплата $32.50. Всі права застережені. Не можна репродукувати ніяких матеріялів без писаного дозволу видавця. Опінії висловлені в статтях не все відповідають опінії власника, видавця чи редакційної ради.

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Українські Вісті це незалежна газета, яка сама утримується із передплат, оголошень та пожертв на пресовий фонд. Просимо підтримувати нашу газету повищими джерелами. Дякуємо заздалегідь за Вашу підтримку.

Чи насправді результати візит Ющенка до США нульові?

Інтерв'ю з позаштатним радником прем'єра України, членом делегації Ющенка до США Богданом Гаврилишиним

Лариса Мудрак та Віктор Міняйло

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Київ, 12 травня 2000. Візит прем'єра України Віктора Ющенка до Вашингтона називають успішним, атмосферу переговорів позитивною, однак результати візиту все ж оцінюють як нульові. Принаймі, так їх оцінює українська преса, аргументуючи це відсутністю очікуваних результатів.

Аби спростувати чи підтвердити таке повідомлення, кореспонденти київського бюро радіо «Свобода» запросили до неформальної розмови в журналістському клубі члена делегації, яка спроводжувала Ющенка до США, позаштатного радника прем'єра, голову Міжнародного центру перспективних досліджень Богдана Гаврилишина.

– Пане Богдане, таке запитання: дасть чи не дасть Вашингтон Києві гроші після візиту до Америки прем'єр–міністра України Віктора Ющенка?

– Дасть, але друге питання – коли? Вашингтон «американський» дасть трохи грошей, а ось щодо «міжнародного» Вашингтону, тобто щодо Міжнародного валютного фонду, то позики будуть, але не сьогодні. Думаю що цього року.

– У пресі з'явилася інформація, що гроші з'являться до осені. На вашу думку, після візиту Ющенка з чого почнуться зміни в Україні – із змін у законодавстві, в економіці, у політичній ідеології?

– Це було найголовніше запитання під час візитів до Вашингтона, а саме: чи буде справжня підтримка політики, яку проголосив нинішній уряд?

Політична підтримка означає підтримку з боку президента України та Верховної Ради. Хоча Верховна Рада зараз турбується, як реалізувати підсумки референдуму.

Можу сказати, що рівень довіри до України підвищився через цей візит.

– За повідомленнями, американська сторона перебігу переговорів застерігала від поширення корупції у вищих ешелонах влади України. Ви, як позаштатний радник прем'єра, порадили, як боротися з цією корупцією?

– Віктор Ющенко сам відповідав на це питання, зокрема, він зазначив, що треба знищити привілеї. Віктор Андрійович чітко пояснював, що вже робить уряд з цього питання.

– Деякий час тому американська сторона полягала на тому, щоб Україна все ж–таки опрацювала факти зловживань високими посадовцями. Чи цього разу порушувалось це запитання?

– Таких гострих вимог іноземна держава не може ставити. Але це потрібно зробити в Україні і це буде зроблено.

– Чи порушував Віктор Андрійович питання про Павла Лазаренка?

– Це питання публічно не піднімалося.

– Якою була дипломатична атмосфера перебігу візиту?

– Вона була позитивною, бо сама особистість Ющенка відіграла позитивну ролю. Всі відчули що це енергійна, рішуча, професійна людина. У нього є певна харизма. Проте як одне із міністрів жень можу сказати наступне. Він пояснював українською мовою ситуацію з приводу заборгованости чень МВФ у зловживаннях коштами, і це було не дуже проходило, бо переклад ускладнював розуміння. До того ж, він пояснював це дуже складними для пересічних громадян термінами, не все було зрозуміло.

– Пане Богдане, чому, коли в Україні були не такі реформаторські уряди, гроші давались без таких проблем, як зараз. Чим це пояснюється?

– Це парадокс міжнародної політики та міжнародної ситуації. Сам МВФ, як кажуть, «на холодне». Гостра критика міжнародним співтовариством Росії, інші міжнародні проблеми призвели до того, що певні теми відійшли на інший бік.

«Чорнобильський ліс» у вихідні не горі

(«День»)—Пожежі в лісах і на торфовищах Київської області минулими вихідними викликали багато чуток про загоряння чорнобильського лісу.

Однак, як повідомили «Дню» у прес–центрі Міністерства надзвичайних ситуацій України, ніяких пожеж і перевищення рівня радіяції на території Чорнобильської зони відчуження зафіксовано не було. За повідомленням МінНС, учора ще тривали роботи з ліквідації пожеж на торфовищах у Київській області, що виникли 11 травня.

Загальна площа пожеж у Іванківському та Вишгородському районах становила близько 20 га. Водночас на території Гомельської області Білорусії пожежею охоплено 1,3 тис. га торфовищ.

Однак, як наголосив міністр України з питань надзвичайних ситуацій Василь Дурдинець на прес–конференції у суботу, ця пожежа «ніяким чином не загрожує Україні і знаходиться на відстані 250–270 км від кордону» країни, повідомляє Інтерфакс–Україна.

Також міністр повідомив, що в п'ятницю, у трьох районах Києва – Ватутінському, Дарницькому та Дніпровському – виникло «6 невеликих пожеж». До 21:00 год., 12 травня всі пожежі було ліквідовано.

За даними МінНС, на 13 травня 1999 року, в Україні сталося 922 лісові пожежі на території 507 га і 169 пожеж по лінії агропромислового комплексу на території 512 гектарів.

Filmon urges community to strengthen ties to Ukraine

Marco Levytsky

Canadians who have roots in Ukraine we have a responsibility to continue to build and strengthen our ties (both diplomatic and economic) with our mother-country, says former Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon.

"I believe that it is absolutely critical that we continue to find opportunities for two way trade and investment. Countries will strengthen faster and more quickly through trade than they ever could through aid," he said while speaking at the seventh annual Kyiv Konnection Banquet, a fundraising event for the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE).

He noted that many have been impatient with the progress Ukraine has made to date toward a truly free market economy and many still fear the influence of old communist bureaucratic way and the corruption that appears to be creeping in, but the best way to overcome that is to share our Canadian expertise with them.

Filmon stated that the Manitoba government took a leadership role in the Canada - Ukraine Business Initiative and, in 1997, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Kyiv with the government of Ukraine for cooperation in areas of economic development, education, culture and judicial exchanges.

Also, we hosted a number of Ukrainian legislators from Manitoba, who gained experience in how our democratic systems work and learned about the creation and implementation of legislation.

"Under the Canada - Ukraine business agreement, Manitoba concentrated on a number of major economic development and training opportunities associated with the building construction and wood products industry. In 1997, we hosted a conference on the building construction industry in Winnipeg for more than 100 Ukrainian delegates to showcase Canadian construction technology," he said.

Manitoba also hosted the G-7 Conference on Ukraine in Winnipeg in 1994 and created the Manitoba - Ukraine Secretariat in Winnipeg last year to advance the opportunities under the Memorandum of Understanding with Ukraine.

Filmon recalled the 1994 visit of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to Winnipeg and "how overwhelmed he was at the warmth of the welcome, which included an exchange of gifts in our cabinet room and the laying of a wreath at the Taras Shevchenko Monument on the grounds of our Legislature."

He particularly remember that when he entered the legislature he was greeted by a junior choir of students from one of our Ukrainian immersion programs. Two of the members, a boy and a girl about 11 year old, dressed in traditional costume made the traditional presentation of bread and salt. He said a few words of thanks and they proceeded to speak to him in fluent Ukrainian. He turned to several of us, slightly embarrassed and began apologizing saying that their Ukrainian was much better than his — that he had been Russified during his education in the old Soviet Union days and was now studying Ukrainian again. It is, incidentally, much better today.

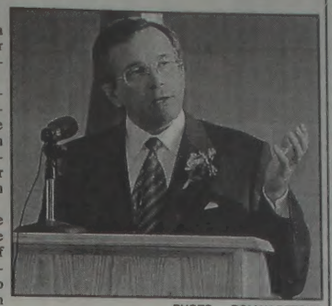

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW
Former Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon

"He said it was amazing that these young children in Canada spoke better Ukrainian than he —the President of Ukraine. This gave me the opportunity to tell him that many of the parents of these children, spoke very little Ukrainian but now the language and culture were being richly preserved and passed along through our public school system."

Filmon also recalled his 1991 visit to Ukraine just after the parliament had declared independence and called for a referendum on the issue.

"I came home saying it was a foregone conclusion — they would vote for independence, and, of course, they did.

"Incidentally, we had come to Kyiv after a week in Moscow. I couldn't believe the contrast.

"Moscow — drab, grey, Kyiv — flowers, women in more colorful and modern style dresses," he noted.

Filmon said his Mother's family (Doskocz) comes from the village of Husiatyn near Ternopil, while his father was born of Polish parents in Romania

"Many of the first generation of immigrants from Eastern Europe took low skilled and semi skilled labour positions to survive, but their dreams and desires for success were passed along to their children and grandchildren and today, many of our community leaders, our professional leaders, our business leaders are Ukrainian Canadians — doctors, lawyers, engineers, educators, business owners and elected public representatives. They have been an inspiration to me," he said.

Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan Community College (GMCC) in Edmonton and a member of the Board of Directors of UFCE explained how the money raised at the banquet will be used.

Part of it will go to fund a four-semester diploma program in Business Management to over 30 students in Kyiv, where GMCC's program is delivered in Ukrainian. Students are eligible to receive Grant MacEwan's diploma and a second Ukraine degree. Before graduating in October 2000, all 34 students must complete a work placement practicum course. Ten of these students will be coming to Alberta in July and August for work study placement with Canadian companies.

Another program is "English as a Second Language" which prepares teachers and materials to launch a College English program in Kyiv in September.

"In addition to this plan to teach in Kyiv, we bring students to Edmonton to learn English. This summer we are expecting 13 students from Kyiv and Lviv to come to Edmonton for English language training," he added.

Yet a third program is a new project to assist deaf students in Ukraine.

The President's Award for outstanding work by a board member was presented to Suzanna Sidlar.

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW
Suzanna Sidlar receives "The President's Award from UFCE President Dr. Steven Kashuba.

Katriuk loses bid to appeal to Supreme Court

An elderly Ukrainian Canadian lost his bid May 11 to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, reports the Canadian Press.

Vladimir Katriuk, 78, of Ormstown, Que., was denied permission to take his case to the highest court.

He may now face deportation. As is usual with appeal applications, no reasons were given for the court's refusal to hear his case. "They can do anything to me," a resigned Katriuk said of immigration officials during an interview from his home near Montreal. "I am old and sick now."

The Federal Court ruled in January 1999 that Katriuk falsified his application when he came to Canada in 1951.

Federal lawyers had argued that because Katriuk used a false name when he applied for entry, he avoided a proper security check. Federal Court Justice Marc Nadon did not uphold allegations by the Justice Department that Katriuk had committed war crimes.

No evidence but the testimony of expert historians had been provided, he wrote.

But Nadon agreed that "there was an immigration process in place which if followed would, in all likelihood, have led to the rejection of (Katriuk)."

Katriuk had hoped the Supreme Court would hear his challenge of a Citizenship Act provision denying appeals of Federal Court trial decisions.

He was at a loss in accepting the news from a reporter that he'd been turned down. "I have no idea," he said when asked his next move.

Katriuk repeated his earlier denials of wrongdoing, saying he gave his real name and true background when he applied for Canadian citizenship in 1958 and was accepted. At trial, Katriuk's immigration application was lost.

His wartime activities were inferred from combat reports indicating he was a member of a Ukrainian battalion of the Waffen SS, between 1942 and 1944.

The reports suggest Katriuk deserted his SS unit when it moved to France from Eastern Europe in 1944. He joined the French Foreign Legion, but his lawyers said he deserted before being sent to Indochina where a sergeant told him he would surely die.

Katriuk used his brother-in-law's name to duck French police and lived quietly in Paris before immigrating to Canada in 1951. He still works as a beekeeper in Ormstown, and said he has severe back troubles from damaged vertebrae.

His case now goes back to Citizenship Minister Elinor Caplan, said Terry Beitner, acting director of the Justice Department's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes branch.

Katriuk and his lawyer will likely be invited to argue in writing why he should be allowed to stay in Canada.

Caplan would then decide whether to recommend to cabinet that his citizenship be revoked.

If cabinet said no, the matter would end there. Otherwise, it would shift back to Caplan to recommend if Katriuk should be deported.

The ultimate decision would be made after Katriuk and a representative for Caplan have a full hearing before an Immigration and Refugee Board adjudicator.

If all steps are taken it will be at least nine months before Katriuk knows his fate, Beitner estimated.

Invitations to Ukraine no longer needed

(ПРАВДА/Interfax-Ukraine)—As of May 1, the government of Ukraine has simplified the visa application procedure for citizens of the European Union member states, the United States, Canada, and Japan, the "Kyiv Economist Daily" and Interfax-Ukraine reported on May 3.

Applying for business and private visas for entry into Ukraine, persons from those countries will henceforth need no invitations.

A resolution to this effect was made at the government meeting on May 3.

In addition, no invitations will be needed for citizens of these countries if they apply for visas for scientific researchers or for cultural and sports exchange.

This decision will help toward simplification and acceleration of visa registration and bringing the procedure of foreigners' entry into Ukraine in conformity with the European standards.

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AUUC puts on superb artistic showcase

Pagan segment could use improvement, howe

By Marco Levytsky

The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians put on a magnificent artistic showcase of Ukrainian culture before a packed house at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton, May 7.

And except for one apparently unintentional flaw, the program's content was such that mainstream Ukrainian Canadians could relate to as well.

Unlike the last performance of the leftist AUUC at the Jubilee in 1998, there was no rendition of "The International" this time around (the former international Communist anthem and the national anthem of the Soviet Union during the darkest days of Stalin's terror had been included in a medley of labour songs at the previous concert). And, for once, the flag of independent Ukraine was displayed along with the Canadian one — an historic first for an AUUC concert.

As no national anthems were sung, the question of an historical first rendition of "Shche ne vemrla Ukrayina" is not relevant.

The theme of the concert was the new millennium. The first half presented historical vignettes representing the first thousand years of Ukraine's history and the continuity of the cultural tradition in Canada. The second half was designed to show who we have become and the best of what appears on our stages across the country.

The first half opened with the traditional Ukrainian greeting representing various regions of Ukraine. Both the choreography and the costumes were of very high calibre.

Then the program proceeded with historical vignettes and it was in the first one "The End of Pagan Times" that the principal flaw occurred.

It shows medieval soldiers destroying a pagan idol that a group of young maidens had been worshipping. As the program notes read: "Christianity has come to Kyivan-Rus. Fearful for their lives, the maidens run away except for one who manages to retrieve one of the embroidered towels."

The embroidered towel is a symbol that is used throughout the program. It reappears in the next sequence — a cossack number which highlights how the cossacks defended the Ukrainian people against foreign invaders.

It appears again in the sequence right after that — one that pays tribute to Oleksa Dovbush and his Opryshnyky who led the Hutsul rebellion against the oppressive Polish landlords in the 18th century — a segment that is particularly striking with its dramatic lighting accentuating the exquisite costumes and choreography of the Hutsul Arkan.

Finally, the embroidered towel makes its way to Canada — thereby continuing the cultural tradition.

So what are they trying to say? Is Christianity one of the oppressors of Ukrainian culture and did Ukrainian culture survive despite the advent of Christianity? These are questions this reviewer posed to the artistic directors of the program and they assured me such an interpretation was definitely not intended. The towel was added as an afterthought.

If I may make one suggestion, how the end of paganism scene should have been treated is that after the idol is destroyed, cha bearing crosses should have come on pick up the towel.

This would be the most historically rate representation. Because the Ch Church did not suppress pagan custo incorporated them into its own ritu embroidered towel — like that other vestige, the pysanka — is a part and pa every Ukrainian Easter Basket. What' the Church enhanced the pagan cu giving it added dimensions it never fore — like a written language and system of education.

That aside, one of the most impres ments of the concert was the instru music. The AUUC has maintained ins mental tradition far more than have stream Ukrainian organizations Edmonton, only one of the smaller p of either denomination — St. Nicholas nian Catholic Parish — maintains a lin orchestra.)

A total of seven AUUC orchestras — Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Re Winnipeg, Sudbury and Welland partic What is most impressive is that they pared separately and only rehearsed just before the show — as did the dance the choirs. One would never had noti from the quality of the performances ever.

For what was billed as a "national fe the instrumental groups were the only not exclusively Western Canadian. The came from Vancouver, Calgary, Edm and Winnipeg; the dancers from Ca Edmonton, Winnipeg, Regina and Van Most notable was the absence of any T group in this festival.

There was also some representation mainstream community Ukrainian artis St. Basil's Junior Kupalo Dance Group the Edmonton AUUC School of Ukr Folk Dance and Music for the children ment. Also performing was vocalist Wolansky and violinist Brian Cherwick. Andriy Nahachewsky choreographed the wedding scene of the history portion.

And, of course, there was the headline artist Luba Goy. Goy's hilarious routine met with peals of laughter and her monologue "What's in a Name" from Just a Comedy was very warmly rec

"I'm so impressed by your performan I feel like I was back in Ukrayina," Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Scherbak, at a banquet following the

"Your festival, which gathered so brilliant young talent, has proven the tal Ukrainian spirit and the Ukrainian for independence and freedom. You shown that the Ukrainian nation can divided by oceans, by thousand kilometres, and borders. Even over the of the Cold War you, our Ukrainian Ca friends, supported our national aspira expectations." he added to the applaus crowd

Scherbak said that next year Ukrai ebrates a very important anniversary years of independence and "it be wo if your artists could visit Ukraine w performance."

Top to Bottom: Children's Millennium Suite; Scene from finale; Hopak; Canadian Farm Wedding; Hutsul Opryshky. Right: Zaporizhian Cossacks. ALL PHOTOS — MARCO LEVYTSKY

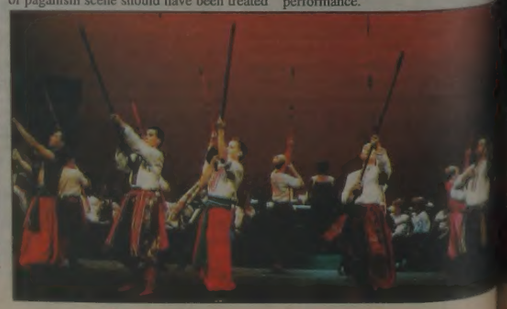


PHOTO — LU TASKEY

Ambassador Scherbak meets with Toronto's Ukrainian community.

Scherbak pledges to strengthen ties with community

(Ukr-News)—As Ambassador of Ukraine he will strengthen ties with the Ukrainian community in Canada in many different ways, said the newly-appointed emissary to Canada, Yuri Scherbak, at gatherings in Edmonton, May 6, and Toronto, May 12.

The Edmonton meeting was held at St. Basil's Ukrainian Cultural Centre, the Toronto one at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation.

In Edmonton called upon members of the community to support Ukraine, "which has risen from the dead and is now giving rebirth to its language, culture, economy and the social sphere."

In Toronto he closed of by saying "I believe in Ukraine whichever it may be — nationalist, or socialist — as long as it is independent."

In both cities Scherbak said a new political situation has been established in Ukraine.

Among the changes: President Leonid Kuchma got a real mandate of trust by the people during the last race, and he has a strong political will to be a new president, to change the situation in Ukraine; the Verkhovna Rada now has established a democratic majority (260 MP's) which supports the policy of reforms and Ukraine has a reformist government headed by Victor Yushchenko, who now has the highest rating among the politicians of Ukraine — 52%.

Scherbak said the Prime Minister has defined the main goals for his Government as the following:

- To provide administrative reform to destroy the old Soviet-style bureaucratic machine;
- To drastically reduce the interference by the State with the economy. To separate administrative power from the economy in order to deprive corruption of its mainstay;
- To revoke a number of excessive corporate privileges;
- To maintain financial stability by strict adherence to the new, non-deficit budget;
- To provide honest, more transparent economic policies, especially in privatization.

"I am pleased to inform you of some initial but important symptoms of recovery of Ukraine's economy:

- We have successfully restructured our foreign debts of $2.6-billion:
- For the first time since independence Ukraine is enjoying economic growth: the growth of GDP for the first quarter of this year was 5.6%, industrial growth reached 9.7%, and in some branches of industry growth increased 30-35%, notably in consumer-oriented industries, like food processing, light industry, wood and paper," he said.

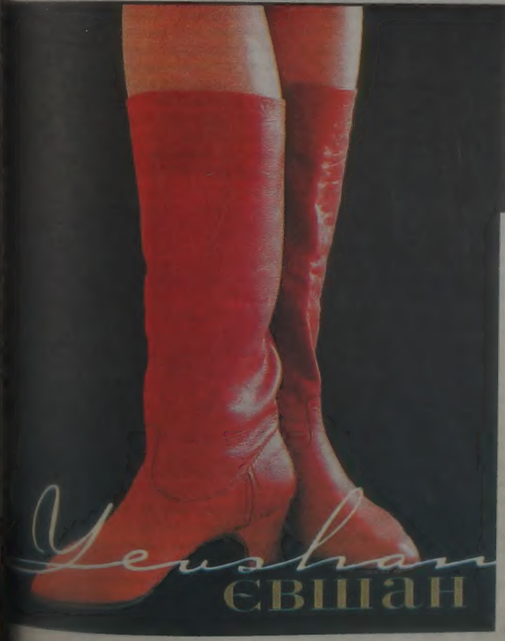
Scherbak added that during last four years Ukraine has achieved outstanding diplomatic success.

"Today Ukraine lives surrounded by friendly countries boasting a wide range of agreements, covering every aspect of relations with them.

"We have managed to achieve the Treaty with Russia on the basis of equality and mu-

Cont. on P. 16

Ambassador Yuri Schrebak with wife Maria and the two children who greeted them at the Edmonton gathering — Olenka Romaniuk and Taras Feculak.



Yevshan 40th Anniversary

artistic director Vitali Sorokotiahyn

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Beginnings

Far across the sea, in a time before our great grandfathers, grandfather. When the land shifted and rocked in anger, winds swept with great fury across the barren lands. Gripped by the winds' rage, we were tossed into a land, longing for our passion.

Destiny has brought us across the sea, from the beautiful valleys of the Dnipro River. Here we have planted our roots deep, living in joy and harmony, as our forefathers would want it. We dance when we are happy, dance when we are sad, dance when we are joyful, dance when we are in pain. We dance to let others know who we are, where we are from and to let them know our gift of life. Most of all, we dance because we love it.

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Yevshan was created in 1960 with a goal of "preserving, interpreting and expressing historical and contemporary Ukrainian cultural values, for public enjoyment, through technical and artistic excellence in the art form of dance."

This gala event will feature some of the Ensemble's best choreography from its first 40 years as well as new material performance.

YEVSHAN UKRAINIAN FOLK BALLET ENSEMBLE

Католицький Університет – виклик культури

13 травня о 10:00 год. ранку у Львівській Богословській Академії відбулася зустріч із Президентом Папської Ради з питань культури Полем Кардиналом Пупардом. Гість Академії виголосил доповідь на тему: «Значення Католицького Університету у формації відданого душпастирства Церкви у галузі культури».

Така тема доповіді актуалізована близькою перспективою відкриття у Львові Католицького Університету Св. Климентія Папи. Саме на структури Академії сьогодні покладено весь тягар навчальної, наукової, адміністративної розбудови майбутнього Університету. Доповідь знаного в Европі богослова має за ціль розбудити живий інтерес серед громадськості до справи Українського Католицького Університету.

В чому виявляється «католицькість» університету у контексті культурного життя суспільства? В тому, що більшість його працівників та студентів католики, що він носить християнську назву, бо його навчальна програма складена згідно християнських принципів? У надісланій до Академії тезі доповіді йдеться про те, що покликання Католицького Університету полягає у тому, що він повинен стати центром, де осмислюються найрізноманітніші культурні традиції та тенденції даного суспільства.

Поль Пупард: У 1930 р. народився в Будзілле, в 1954 році був висвячений; 1979 – призначений титулярним єпископом Узули; 1985 – Іван Павло II покликав його в кардинальський чин. З 1988 р. виконує обов'язки Президента Папської Ради з Питань Культури, а також входить у раду Конґреґації Божественного Культу і в раду Конґреґації Католицького Виховання. Керована Кардиналом Рада з Питань Культури була заснована Папою Іваном Павлом II. Ціль Ради – сприяти творенню повноти діялогу Церкви та культури. Християнське русло, яке дало поштовх до розвитку всієї европейської культури, сьогодні дуже часто обезводнене тим фактом, що дуже багато творчої інтелігенції цураються свого релігійного коріння, цураються християнської віри. Рада покликана відновити з багатьох причин втрачені зв'язки.

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I–ший ряд зліва направо: Оксана Качмар, Соломія Гарагуц, Юстина Мельник, Нікол Шиману... Наталя Радьо, Діана Кебап, Антон Семенко, Марія Качмар. II–ий ряд зліва направо: С... Гарагуц, Інна Диморяк, Каміл Шиманувка.

День Матері при Едмонтонським відділі УНО

Оля Миц

«Слово мама – найкраще слово!»

Мама... Чи є на світі слово більш прекрасніше й ніжне? У матері добрі і ласкаві руки, найчутливіше серце, в якому ніколи не згасає любов, воно ніколи не залишається байдужим.

Тому 13 травня був незвичайний день в домі Українського Національного Об'єднання, а День Мами, Рідної Мами. Діти театрального гуртка «Джерело», що при Організації Українок Канади вирішили вшанувати матерів святковим концертом.

Образ матері – Триликий. Це Матір Божа, яка завжди опікується нами, це Україна – мати, це рідна матір кожного з нас. Саме їм було присвячене свято. Поезія Л. Полтави «Три матері», яку так чутливо продеклямували Славко та Соломія Гарагуц стало однією із цих доказів.

Мати – найрідніша і найближча кожному з нас людина. Від неї ми одержуємо життя. Вона вчить нас людських правил, збагачує наш розум, вкладає у наші вуста добрі слова. Тому линули пісні, звучали поезії, водились хороводи, промовлялись слова пошани, любові для любих матусь. Висловили свою любов словами віршів Наталя Радьо, Нікол та Каміл Шиманувка, Інна Диморяк, Миколка Середич, Діана Кебап, Юстина Мельник та Микола Семенко. Піснею «Наша мати» Христина Шегрин та Соломія Цісар ще раз під... лили свої щирі почуття до любих матусь.

Тому і настрій у мам був дуже гарний... піднесений. У багатьох мам можна було поба... милі усмішки на обличчях.

Бо мати щаслива тоді, коли щаслива її діти... А найбільше тоді коли вона чує турботу... допомогу від дітей. Поезія «Пиріг з вишн... де Антон Семенко ствердив, що він росте, ... ним помічником. Багатьом присутнім сподоба... виступ трьохрічної Оксанки Качмар, яка ... тувала віршик «Матінко».

Надзвичайно зворушливо було слухати ... на сл. А. Малишка «Рідна мати моя» у викон... матері та дочки Світлани та Маріанни Се...

Рідна мати моя. Чи є кращі слова від ... Ні, немає палкішої любові від материнс... щирішої вірності від материнської, немає біл... щедрості від материнської за що усім мате... складаємо низький уклін.

Матері не вічні. Поки мати живе на ... сонце всміхається веселіше, прикрощі не... не страшні. Як мати Божа є Покровом ... матері України, так і наша мати є Покро... кожного з нас. Отож, поспішаймо до матер... усіх доріг, Ще раз з святам Вас любі ма... «Хай скроні не сріблить печаль і журба і ма... будуть щасливі літа!

Розкол в Національному русі кримських тата...

Володимир Притула

(Радіо «Свобода»)—В Національному русі кримських татар – НДКТ стався розкол. Досі це була єдина більш–менш відома кримськотатарська організація, що стояла на антимеджлісівських проросійських позиціях.

Газета «Арекет», контрольована Національним рухом кримських татар, оприлюднила постанову чергової регіональної зустрічі НДКТ про виключення з її лав колишнього лідера цієї кримськотатарської організації Васві Абдураїмова та ще кількох його прихильників–членів Інформаційної робочої груп. Таким чином було офіційно оформлено розкол в НДКТ – чи не єдиного кримськотатарського об'єднання, що виступало з проросійських позицій й один час входило до прокомуністичного Народно–опозиційного союзу Криму.

НДКТ ніколи не користувався серйозним впливом серед кримських татар і використовувався проросійськими і лівими політичними силами півострова лише для ілюстрації відсутності загальної підтримки кримськотатарським народом Меджлісу.

В офіційному повідомленні «Арекету» мовиться, що, цитую: «група осіб на чолі з Васві Абдураїмовим, використовуючи контакт з деякими іноземни... ми посольствами, пішла на приховані від ... сепаратні дії: прикриваючись іменем НДКТ... намагалися отримати грошову суму на здійсн... власного групового комерційного проекту».

Васві Абдураїмов, який очолював НДКТ... 1993 р., коли загинув засновник Національн... Руху Юрій Османов, не визнає рішення ... колишніх соратників. За його словами, ро... інспіровано ворогами кримськотатарського ... з–за меж Криму. Він стверджує, що вісник НД... «Арекет» захоплено самозванцями на чо... колишнім керуючим справами Національного Р... Сейдаметом Меметовим. Останнього з гру... прихильників іншою робочою зустріччю НД... виключено з його лав, – стверджує Ва... Абдураїмов. Але проблема в тому, що печат... та всі інші офіційні атрибути НДКТ перебува... в руках соратників Сейдамета Меметова.

Схоже, НДКТ не переживе цього розко... Не користуючись хоч якоюсь популярністю ср... широких кримськотатарських кіл, тепер ця орга... зація може втратити і підтримку своїх союзн... у владних структурах автономної республ... контрольованих комуністами.

...humka School of Dance celebrates milestone

...ka School of Dance)—On May 27, ...ainian Shumka Dancers will celebrate ...one. In the same year they recognize ...th Anniversary, they also mark the ...ion of 10 years of dance education at ...ka School of Dance. Three generations... Shumka will perform in a concert to ...e occasion. Recently returned from ...stern Canadian tour, Shumka will be ...n excerpt from their Cinderella pro...

...89, Shumka School of Dance opened ...with a class of 20 students and two ...in the hopes of technically train...ng dancers to prepare them for the ...of Shumka. "From the beginning the ...set out to provide the dancer with a ...background in traditional and contem... Ukrainian dance and to educate the ...a better understanding of Ukrainian ...", says Vincent Rees, Artistic Direc... The company sees the school as a way ...the community and, at the same time, ...e a high quality artistic training pro... for aspiring local dancers who might one ...ance in Shumka," he continues.

...gral to the school's growth has been the ...rent development of the Shumka Syl...us for Ukrainian Dance by Douglas ...nski, former Artistic Director of the ...l and now Director of Dance Unlimited. ...other dance forms such as ballet, jazz ...have employed syllabi for many years, ...ian dance has historically been viewed ...ge-based folk dance," Rachinski ex...

...e problem with that," he says "is that ...is no consistency. One instructor might ...the child to do "tanok" one way, and ...very next year the child is taught the ...ep but just a bit differently or with a ...t name. No effort has ever been made ... skills and strengths from level to ...

...Ukrainian dance has evolved into a rec...ed art form, it now requires a more con...method of teaching. Rachinski spent ...rs researching and developing the cur... travelling to Ukraine for part of his ... The Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance now ... nine grades and is contained on sev...ideos, texts and is complemented by its ...stom music CD's.

PHOTO — ELLIS BROTHERS PHOTOGRAPHY
Scene from Shumka's Cinderella

In 1995, a new troupe, Viter Ukrainian Dancers was formed as the performing ensemble of the Shumka School of Dance. Since that time, they have developed their own unique style and identity separate from the school representing Edmonton and Shumka across Alberta, Canada and into the eastern United States. Currently, they are planning a trip to Ukraine in the summer of 2001. Viter is now known as the Junior Performing Ensemble of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and serve as the training ground for the parent troupe. Over fifty percent of the current Ukrainian Shumka Dancers have come to the group by way of Shumka School and the Viter Ukrainian Dancers.

The school has grown dramatically an now boasts an annual enrollment of over 180 students ranging in age from 3 to 45 years. Its 13 instructors now offer core classes as well as specialized Ukrainian technique classes out of two studios, one located in North Edmonton and one in Sherwood Park.

Three generations of Shumka: students, Viter and Ukrainian Shumka Dancers will celebrate the 10th Anniversary with a special concert performance on Saturday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. The intimate evening will take place at the Horowitz Theatre, University of Alberta. Tickets are available through the Shumka School office (452-5012).

Left to right: Ted Diakiw, Yolannah Diakiw, Chrystia Chomiak, Sofia Skrypnyk.

Father, daughter exhibit at UCAMA

(UkrNews)—The works of Ukrainian Canadian artists Ted and Yolannah Diakiw were exhibited at the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Albertain Edmonton, April 14-16.

Born into a family of two passionate and dedicated artists, Yolannah grew up in a world which live, breathed, produced, debated, suffered for and nurtured art.

Ted Diakiw, already a artist when she was born, had a studio in what had once been the family garage. While most of her peers went to playschool, Yolannah played in her father's studio, where among other things she learnt to work with clay and glaze ceramics. By the time she went to school, Yolannah was glazing cups in her father's studio.

Likewise she was deeply influenced by her mother's work. While Ted's studio was in the garage, PrimRose's was in the kitchen or the living room. With one eye on her children, and the other on her art, PrimRose set up her easel and paints wherever she needed to be. It was with her that Yolannah first learnt to paint and draw and was exposed to Ukrainian culture, spirituality and community.

"Like many things in life, Ted's turn to ceramic art came by out of necessity — in the mid 1960s he had to find a way to support his young family and ceramics were a hot ticket item then," explained Chrystia Chomiak, who delivered the keynote address at the opening.

"What he found instead of a quick fix, however, was that he was captivated both by the medium — the clay itself — and by the production of three-dimensional forms. That is why he has stayed with ceramics from his first ceramic exhibition in 1969 to the present.

"Initially Ted Diakiw's ceramic art expressed his captivation with the material itself — both his palette and the energy of his work expressed the ancient earth that he worked with. Later he introduced colours and added graphic drawings both to tell stories and to decorate his pieces.

"All of the forms that he develops, he takes from nature, and every two or three years he moves from one approach to another, from one set of motifs to another," she said.

Speaking about Yolannah, Chomiak explained that she has a passion for portraits.

"However, Yolannah Diakiw does not set out to capture the physical likeness of her subjects — her personality, his sense of self. Instead, Yolannah's aim is to tell a story and to present the sitter as a window that reveal her subjects' personal and interior space. Besides their story, Yolannah's sitters divulge their spiritual underbelly.

"She achieves this through the eyes of her subjects, by placing her subjects in our face — immediately and directly in front of us, through her rich but limited use of colour, in *her choice of setting and backdrop, through* her delight in solitude."

Chomiak also commended the curatorial work of Sofia Skrypnyk, who organized the exhibition.

"All 80 of her exhibitions have been devoted to the promotion of Ukrainian artists, some of whom came with international reputations, others who deserved them. As a result of her work, she has built many important collections of Ukrainian art in this city and through them enriched and deepened the value of Ukrainian cultural life in Edmonton"

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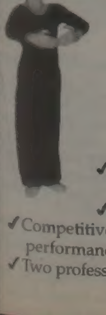

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Shumka The Family

Viter Ukrainian Dancers

Viter Ukrainian Dancers are the Junior Performing Ensemble of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers. They are a repertoire company who have proudly represented Edmonton throughout Alberta as well as nationally and internationally. Over sixty percent of today's Shumka Dancers have come to the troupe via Viter.

Dancers must be a minimum of 14 years of age.

Call (780) 452-5012 for further information.

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Limited space for male and female dancers to join Shumka's Eastern Canadian Cinderella tour, Fall 2000

"Shumka is a genuine phenomenon. And Cinderella, Shumka-style, is an invigorating flourish of pure dance and colour."
-Pamela Anthony, Edmonton Journal

Dancers must be a minimum of 16 years of age.

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Shumka Studios 12245-131 Street Edmonton

Veterans, leftists march on VE Day

Plushch calls for recognition of UPA

(RFE/RL)—Some 2,000 war veterans marched in downtown Kyiv on May 9 in an official ceremony to mark VE Day, Interfax reported. Later, 2,500 representatives of leftist parties staged another march, carrying red flags and portraits of Lenin and Stalin.

Also on May 9, President Leonid Kuchma visited his father's grave in Russia's Novgorod Oblast, where the latter died at the front in 1942.

Meanwhile, parliamentary speaker Ivan Plyushch called for reconciliation between Soviet veterans and those of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

The UPA was a 40,000- strong nationalist force that fought German troops as well as Polish and Soviet guerrillas in Nazi-occupied Ukraine in a bid to establish an independent Ukrainian state.

UPA veterans have not been officially recognized by the government and do not have the right to social benefits, unlike their Soviet counterparts.

Tyhypko seeks Rada seat

(Eastern Economist)—Economy Minister Serhiy Tyhypko intends to take part in by-elections for the Verkhovna Rada in Pavlohrad electoral district #36 in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, stated Premier's spokeswoman Natalia Zarudna, May 15.

She added that as of today Tyhypko is on vacation.

The Economy Ministry's press service stated Tyhypko has not officially applied for the by-elections.

In line with the constitution, Tyhypko must resign from the cabinet in order to run for the Rada. His responsibilities will be assumed by First Deputy Economy Minister Viktor Kalnyk.

Miners stage warning strike

(RFE/RL)—Some 6,000 miners at 150 coal mines staged a one-day warning strike on May 16 to demand back wages and the resumption of coal purchases by the state, Interfax and Reuters reported.

The protest was organized by the Union of Coal Industry Workers. The union pledged to resort to "harsher protests" by the end of May if the *government does not address the miners' demands.*

The previous week, a strike organized by the Independent Union of Miners ended after the parliament amended the budget to increase subsidies to the coal industry.

Some 40,000 miners launched the strike in 19 mines in Donetsk, Luhansk, and Volynska Oblasts on May 10, Interfax reported.

According to official data, Ukraine's wage arrears totaled 6.5 billion hryvni (US$1.2 billion) as of April 10, of which 747 million hryvni were in the mining sector.

Only eight of Ukraine's 191 mines are profit-making.

Barakov compensation delayed

(Eastern Economist)—Families of the miners that were killed at the Barakov mine in March have yet to receive monetary and humanitarian compensation that had been transferred to a special account in Krasnodon.

Mine leader Dmytro Kalitventsev said on May 12 the humanitarian aid allotment plan had been approved April 14.

According to the plan, the parents of the deceased will receive Hr 5,000 and each of the children in the family under 23 years of age will get Hr 15,000.

A total Hr 1.05 million was allocated for the purchase of apartments with the remaining funds to be divided evenly among the 87 families.

The monies were not dispersed for technical reasons.

Newsbriefs

New deputy ministers appointed

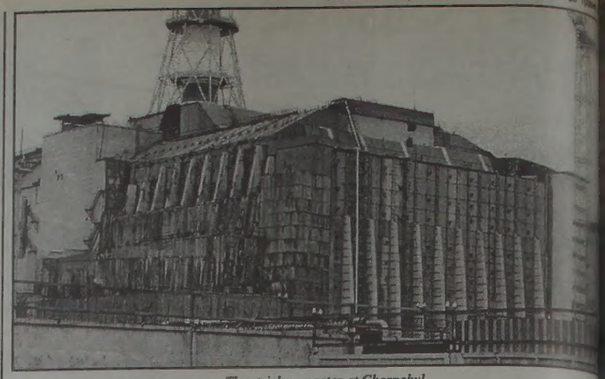
(Easter Economist)—President Leonid Kuchma issued decrees appointing Col.-Gen. Viktor Bannykh as Deputy Defense Minister of military policy and cooperation and Lt-Gen. Oleksandr Chapovskiy as Deputy Minister for organizing events, May 6.

Forest fire near Chernihiv

(Eastern Economist)—A fire near the settlement of Khropatiy in Chernihiv oblast destroyed almost 40 hectares of forest stated the Emergency Ministry, May 12. The fire started May 11 at about 15:10 and was put out the same day at 22:30. It was apparently caused by careless behavior by unidentified persons. Losses are estimated at Hr 25,000. About 55 firefighters and 20 fire trucks were involved in extinguishing the fire. The strong north winds carried the heavy smoke to Kyiv.

Government paying off pension debts

(Eastern Economist)—The government has directed Hr 100 million this year toward paying off the pension debts which constitute 10% of the total debt stated Premier Viktor Yushchenko May 4. He stressed that in during the first quarter of 2000 the budget allocated 46% more funds towards social payments than in the first quarter of 1999. The debt in social payments was Hr 2.133 billion April 1.



The stricken reactor at Chornobyl.

Chornobyl contamination lingers longer than though

By Askold Krushelnycky

(RFE/RL)—British scientists have found that radioactive fallout from the 1986 Chornobyl disaster is lingering far longer in the environment and at much higher levels than was initially thought.

A study published in this month's "Nature," a prestigious British science magazine, concluded that the environment is taking 100 times longer to rid itself of pollution than previously predicted.

The study by six British scientists tracked the level of the radioactive element cesium 137, one of the contaminants produced by the Chornobyl accident, in lakes in the U.K. and Norway. The team tested water, vegetation, and fish. Team leader James Smith from Britain's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology tells RFE/RL of his findings.

"What we found was that the radiocesium in foodstuffs after Chornobyl declined relatively rapidly. The concentration of cesium declined in the first few years after Chornobyl by roughly two times every two years. But in recent years, we have found that this decline has slowed, so that the concentration of radioactivity in foodstuffs is only declining by half every 10 or 15 years."

The accident at Chornobyl in Ukraine, when one of the reactors exploded, spewing out radioactive pollution, was the world's worst civilian nuclear catastrophe.

Although the explosion was in Ukraine, winds drove the radiation into neighboring Belarus, which was, by most estimates, worse affected than Ukraine. The winds also spread contamination into Russia and across western Europe, including Britain.

Britain was relatively little affected by the fallout, although nearly 400 farms have restrictions on the sale and slaughter of sheep. The researchers say such restrictions will have to continue for a total of 30 years after the accident.

Smith says the environment is not cleaning itself of the pollution at the rate scientists previously th He says that closer to the accident site, precaution have to continue for longer.

"It looks like in Ukraine and Belarus the mos will need to be continued for maybe up to 50 ye more."

The disaster killed 31 people in Ukraine alm mediately, but both Belarus and Ukraine have m millions of their citizens have been affected in quent years and predict the accident will cont take a heavy toll in lives for decades to come.

Last month, Ukraine said some 3.5 million p over a third of them children, had suffered illne result of the contamination. The incidence of sou cers has risen to 10 times what it was.

The researchers emphasize that the cancer ri consumption of contaminated food is small, b add that precautions must still be taken. Doctor

"Cesium can be concentrated in our bodies can cause a small increase, a very small incre our risk of having cancer." Smith says the da contamination to the human food chain comes no farm produce but from food gathered outside o in affected regions.

"The foodstuffs which are most susceptible, if well known, are so-called wild foodstuffs. It's agricultural products necessarily, it's the produc ing from the forest eco-systems and the fresh lakes. We find that the highest concentrat radiocesium are found in freshwater fish in lakes, rooms from the forest, berries from the forest, est animals."

Ukrainian and Belarusian authorities have fo tried to prevent such produce coming to sale a kets. In Ukraine, inspectors and even some sh regularly check mushrooms and other foodstuff Geiger counters (radioactivity detectors). As th study shows, they will have to continue doing a long time to come.

Rada sends two referendum bills to Constitutional Court

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's parliament on May 11 voted by 304 to seven with four abstentions to send to the Constitutional Court two draft bills on how the constitution should reflect the results of the April 16 referendum, Interfax reported.

The first bill was submitted to the parliament by President Leonid Kuchma, while the second was sponsored by 152 lawmakers primarily from leftist and centrist caucuses.

AP quoted a parliamentary spokesman as saying that the lawmakers' bill proposes granting the parliament the right to appoint and dismiss the prime minister and cabinet members.

Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court is examining the legality of resolutions adopted by the parliamentary majority outside the parliamentary building after the Supreme Council split into two warring factions in January.

On May 15 deputy parliamentary speaker Stepan Havrysh told journalists that the president has urged the parliament to adopt constitutional amendments in line with the April 16 referendum and to do so no later than February 2001, Interfax reported.

According to Havrysh, Kuchma will not oppo makers if the parliament introduces "some corr into the constitutional formulations approved referendum.

Havrysh suggested that Kuchma might inro constitutional amendments by decree if la failed to pass them.

Rada passes amnesty bill, amends b

(RFE/RL)—May 11 Ukraine's parliament p law stating that amnesty may be offered to tho victed for "minor crimes," primarily minors, with children who are minors or disabled, pr women, the elderly, and war veterans, Interfax re

The parliament also amended the 2000 budg crease revenues from 32.8 billion hryvni to 3 lion hryvni (US$6.2 billion).

The amendments stipulate that an additio million hryvni be directed to local budgets, 19 lion hryvni will be used to support the agricultu tor, 35 million hryvni for the shutdown of Cho 80 million hryvni for restructuring the coal sec 195 million hryvni for subsidies to coal mines.

65th Anniversary initiatives launched at Ukrainian Museum of Canada

Ukrainian Museum of Canada)—Two new initia- are in progress at the headquarters museum of the rainian Museum of Canada in Saskatoon. Both are d, in part, by the Department of Canadian Heri- and Saskatchewan Lotteries.

series of events in April launched a year to cel- the Museum's 65th anniversary occurring in , 2001. Renovations to the Permanent Gallery ate a Special Collections Gallery to showcase alized collections housed at the museum and its nches in Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary ancouver. Unique provincial or regional collec- could also be highlighted. preliminary design work een completed by Ken Wilson Architect Limited askatoon. Estimated costs for the renovations are 000.

major fundraising event on April 8 was dedicated Special Collections Gallery and provided the for further fundraising efforts. Entertainment ia Goy from the Royal Canadian Air Farce, Fash- by Savelia of Saskatoon and Ukraine and a silent of over 100 items were enjoyed by a sell-out d of 350 persons. We require additional funds to plete this unique project and solicit your support. ions toward completion of the Special Collec- Gallery will be accepted until December 31, 2000. donations will receive an official income tax re- Additional fundraising projects are planned dur- anniversary year. Renovations will begin as soon nding is in place.

Museum hosted its 19th Annual Museum Con- on April 8, with 38 representatives from the quarters Board, its five branch museums and com- organizations of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance a of Canada. Topics of mutual interest were dis- including fundraising strategies, program high- and opportunities for collaborative projects.

Conference was part of Phase II of the New ons Today — Net: Ukrmuse project, the objec- which is to develop and maintain liaison with ranch museums and provincial and national orga- ns in order to enhance membership, fundraising ommunications initiatives.

Page Design 2000 was a workshop offered by

Stan Klopoushak, president, Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association - Steppe Branch, Saskatoon, presents a donation to Eugene Kucey, President, headquarters Museum, Saskatoon.

the Museum on April 7. Twenty-two persons from a variety of Ukrainian heritage organizations from across Canada participated. The one-day event was coordinated by Donna Zaleschuk and facilitated by Doug Lacombe, Electronic Media Manager at the Saskatoon Star Phoenix.

The workshop was the first phase of the Museum's second initiative titled Zustrich/Meeting — Ukrmuse designed to enhance communications among Canadian institutions preserving and promoting Ukrainian heritage. Exposure to the basics of web page development was a major learning opportunity.

An update of the Museum's web page in progress: www.umc.sk.ca was presented by Wayne Roman, Webmaster, during the Museum Conference. Phase II will develop a pilot electronic network among participating institutions and will be completed in September, 2000.

Journalists demand limit on court fines

(RFE/RL)—In a May 3 action protesting what they ed as the suppression of the media in Ukraine urts that impose exorbitant fines, some 50 jour- s on May 3 erected a barricade some five metres and marched along a central Kyiv street with their h taped shut, AP and Interfax reported.

journalists demanded that the parliament amend w on media to establish limits on the size of the edia must pay if found guilty of libel or other ses.

re than 2,250 lawsuits were filed against Ukrai- newspapers in 1999 for damages totaling 90 bil- hryvni (US$16.8 billion). That sum is nearly double ment's planned budget revenues in 2000.

Bread hikes protested, supported

(RFE/RL)—Two opposing rallies were held at the city administration building on May 13 in re- e to the city authorities' decision to nearly double for bread as of May 10, Interfax reported.

ally organized by the Social Democratic Party d) protested the hike, calling it "the beginning ism" and demanding the ouster of Kyiv Mayor ndr Omelchenko.

other demonstration, organized by workers at keries, expressed support for the hike and pro- "communist methods of fighting for social

elchenko told the gatherings that Kyiv has "the est bread in Ukraine."

Peace Corps to expand

Eastern Economist)—Peace Corps Director Mark nder arrived in Ukraine May 4 and held several ngs with Cabinet members. He met Verkhovna deputies and ex-president Leonid Kravchuk May nder said the Peace Corps is interested in ex- g its activities in Ukraine and increasing the er of volunteers. Possible new areas of coopera- clude the development of information technolo- and agriculture.

Ukraine, Belarus want to expand trade

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian Premier Viktor Yushchenko visited Minsk on May 16 to seek ways to expand and liberalize bilateral trade, Belapan and Interfax reported.

Trade turnover plunged from US$1.5 billion in 1997 to $700 million last year, primarily because both Minsk and Kyiv lacked hard currency to pay for imports.

Yushchenko commented that his talks with Belarusian Premier Uladzimir Yarmoshyn were "quite productive."

Yushchenko also met with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to discuss Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's visit to Belarus later this month.

Lukashenka said Belarus has "practically no political disagreements" with Ukraine, adding that he will be able to resolve all economic problems between the two states at his upcoming meeting with Kuchma.

Premier issues order to dismiss officials

(Eastern Economist)—Premier Victor Yushchenko issued an order to prepare the documents for dismissal of the officials who participated in signing the agreement between the privatized OblEnergos, NaftoGaz Ukrainy, and the Ukrainian Credit Bank for sale of bills of exchange for Hr 650 million.

The officials are: Volodymyr Luchnikov head of UkrEnergo; and Oleksandr Svitelyk and Volodymyr Kryvytskiy Deputy Fuel and Energy Ministers.

Deputy Premier Yulia Tymoshenko stated that acting Chair of NaftoGaz Ukrainy Ihor Didenko signed the order for the issue of these bills which resulted in state losses of Hr 550 million.

Tarasiuk meets with head

(Eastern Economist)—Foreign Minister Borys Tarasiuk met the head of the Security Council of the UN Van Jinfan, May 3. Tarasiuk spoke highly of the current state of cooperation between the UN and Ukraine. Ukrainian initiatives include the proposal to hold a special session of the UN General Assembly on AIDS problems and the systematization of the introduction of international sanctions. The latter was strongly supported by the UN representative from Canada.

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Briefly

Karpaty ex-president killed

(Ukrainian Soccer News)—May 11 46 year old Roman Hirnyk was killed by machine gun bullets. Hirnyk was Karpaty Lviv player in mid 70's, scored 2 goals in 15 USSR Premier League games. In 1994-96 he was the Karpaty president. Lately he was a rather successful businesman.

Karpenko takes bronze

Ukraine's Victoria Karpenko won the bronze medal in the all-around event at the European women's gymnastics championships in Paris, May 14 Karpenko's score of 38.456 was good for third place following Russians Svetlana Khorkina with 38.749 points and Yelena Zamolodchikova, who was second with 38.624 points. Fourth in the standings went to Spain's Esther Moya with 38.442 points ahead of Ukraine's Olga Raschoupkina, 38.404.

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БУДЬМО в КОНТАКТі!

Dynamo's surefire Georgia[n] filling Shevchenko's shoe[s]

Sports/Спорт

By Nick Bidwell

(USFC)—In a bid to maintain the high-quality attacking play of the past three or four years, Kyiv Dynamo went for an injection of Georgian goalpower in the shape of Georgi Demetradze, lured away from Russian side Alaniya Vladikavkaz at the end of last year.

Dynamo's need to improve their front line was no state secret. Andriy Shevchenko had long since departed for the dolce vita of Milan, his ex-striking partner Serhi Rebrov surely will join him in the West this summer, while the youngster touted as the 'new Shevchenko', Uzbekistan international Maksim Shatskih, has yet to convince since his arrival from Baltika Kaliningrad.

With respect to Shatskih, an untried 20-year-old whose advance publicity portrayed him as a cross between Shevchenko and Gerd Muller, 23-year-old Demetradze appears a somewhat safer bet as Dynamo's purveyor of goals. He is quick of thought and movement, a natural scorer, and the figures back him up.

Last season he was the Russian League's top scorer with 21 goals for Alaniya; in the previous season he managed 14 to finish second. Nor does he spend all 90 minutes hovering in the box. Dynamo coach and total football devotee Valeri Lobanovsky insists on using versatile players, and Demetradze certainly is that.

With a good turn of speed and penchant for raiding along the flanks, he can be just as dangerous when in chance-making mode.

"I love to score goals but I love to create them too," says Demetradze. "I want to win. That's why I'm so pleased to have joined Dynamo. Their excellent Champions League record over the past few years speaks for itself. This is one of the most competitive sides in Europe. My challenge is to help keep it that way.

"We were very disappointed to lose out to Real Madrid [in the Champions League 99/00 second group phase], but it's been a wonderful experience against the likes of Real and Bayern Munich. I'm looking forward to having more good times in this competition."

Demetradze started his career at Georgian club Dynamo Tbilisi — the highlight being winning goal in the 1995 national Cup Final against — and after an unproductive spell with Feyenoord got his career back on track with a move to Vladikavkaz.

Demetradze, however, still has much to prove at international level. His main role has been that of study to the likes of Shota Arveladze, Temuri Ketsbaia and Zaza Dzanashia.

But provided Demetradze takes the right c[illegible] Kyiv Dynamo stage, the tables could soon be turned.

Kuchma sends greetings to Dynamo Kyiv

(Ukrainian Soccer News)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma sent greetings to Dynamo Kyiv on the 25 anniversary of the historical victory in the European Cup Winners Final on May 14, 1975.

It was the first victory ever in the history of a Soviet and/or Ukrainian club.

On route to the final, Dynamo beat leaders of German BundesLiga, Eintracht Frankfurt, and leaders of Dutch League, PSV Eindhoven.

In the final they beat Ferencvarosi (Hungary).

Vitali Klitschko becomes a fath[er]

By Fabian Weber

(Universum Box-Promotion)—After 24 hours Vitali Klitschko's wife Natalia gave birth to their first child, a wide-awake and thoroughly healthy Klitschko Junior the morning of May 16 at midnight PDT in Los Angeles.

The little future world champion is a ten-and-a-half pound boy with a height of 22 inches.

The lucky parents will stay some time with their addition to the family in California. However, Vitali Klitschko who is still recovering from his shoulder injury will have to return to Germany soon to observe several public dates.

Vitali Klitschko, 27-1 (27 KOs), held the heavyweight world title from 1999 to 2000 defe[ending] it two times successfully until he had to quit in [illegible] against Chris Byrd due to an injured shoulder.

His younger brother Wladimir, 33-1 (31 KOs), [illegible] European heavyweight champion and is expe[illegible] get a world title shot this year either against Wi[illegible] IBF champion Lennox Lewis or against the wi[illegible] the vacant WBA championship between Ev[illegible] Holyfield and John Ruiz.

Шевченко і синьо–жовті прапори у Ри[illegible]

Василь Зілгалов

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Хто 7–го травня бачив футбольний матч на Олімпійському стадіоні у Римі, той міг подумати чи не сниться йому щось.

Бо над трибунами червоно–чорних прихильників «АЦ Мілан під час матчу цієї команди з господарями, римською «Ромою», майоріли величезні синьо–жовті прапори з тризубами. Ні, це не галюцинації. Таким чином міланці підтримували свого кумира, українця Андрія Шевченка. І не дарма.

Так, це була принципова гра. І АЦ Мілан не можна було втрачати очки, бо йшлося про путівку до Ліги чемпіонів. Тому я з самого початку даю вам послухати голос італійського коментатора:

Аудіо – 1 хвилина.

Ви зрозуміли. Коментатор напружено чекав наслідків протистояння між Андрієм Шевченком і голкіпером «Роми» Антоніоллі. Український форвард з АЦ Мілан пробивав пенальті. І ви почули, що траєкторія удару була і цього разу голова. Тобто, Андрій лідирує у суп[illegible] бомбардирів перед останнім туром італ[illegible] вищої футбольної ліги – серії А. Він м[illegible] своєму рахунку 23 голи, Фернан Креспо з [illegible] відстає вже на два м'ячі. Українськи[illegible] вальників, звичайно ж, цікавить чи [illegible] Шевченко дебютний рекорд бразільця Ро[illegible] в 25 голів і таким чином заслужить у нас[illegible] обіцяну президентом клубу Сільвіо Берл[illegible] яхту. Не поспішаймо. Все стане відомо в [illegible] цього тижня.

Останній матч цього сезону АЦ Мілан [illegible] на своєму полі 14 травня з норовистим клу[illegible] середняком серії А – «Удінезе». Нині ко[illegible] Андрія Шевченка третя, з 58 очками. [illegible] «Ювентуса» і «Лаціо» – у яких відповідн[illegible] 69 очок. «Інтернаціонале» та «Парма» відо[illegible] від команди Дзакерроні на три очка. Отже [illegible] Мілан не має права програвати «Удінезе» [illegible] не лише призове третє місце але й путів[illegible] турніру Ліги чемпіонів у команди Шевч[illegible] кишені.

Україна залишилася у вищій лізі гоке[illegible]

Сергій Махун

(«День»)—Підопічні Анатолія Богданова 9 травня завершили свої виступи на чемпіонаті світу в Санкт–Петербурзі. Незважаючи на поразку, яку вони зазнали від австрійців (2:3), українські гокеїсти все ж зберегли прописку в серії «А», домігшись раніше в так званому «втішливому турнірі» двох перемог – над японцями (4:0) і французами (3:2).

У результаті наша гокейна дружина фінішувала на 13–му місці.

Головна сенсація ЧС–2000 – просто ганебний виступ господарів – збірної Росії, котра ухо[illegible] після перемоги над збірною Франції програ[illegible] чотири гри поспіль – американцям, лат[illegible] швейцарцям і білорусам.

Підопічні Олександра Якушева (а це в [illegible] ному «зірки» НГЛ) створили «маленьке [illegible] знаком мінус» і після перемоги над [illegible] (4:2) посіли тільки 11–те місце.

У фіналу Чеська Республіка пере[illegible] Словакію (5:3), а в грі на третє місце Фін[illegible] перемогла Канаду (2:1).

Who will lose energy war?

Business

(UNIAN Monitor)—Ukraine's ailing energy industry has become an arena of confrontation between several firmly entrenched oligarchic groups and Deputy Premier Yulia Tymoshenko ever since her appointment in January.

Early on, she came up with a reform plan to boost investments in Ukraine's debt-burdened energy market, which could prove a problem for several well-connected businessmen, who — Tymoshenko argues — have managed their market segments rather poorly. These oligarchs are counterattacking by accusing Tymoshenko, a former partner of Ukraine's now fugitive Premier Pavlo Lazarenko in shady energy deals, promoting a company she founded, United Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU). UESU, which enjoyed a legal monopoly on natural gas supplies under Lazarenko, was edged out of the market after his dismissal in 1997.

Tymoshenko's plans apparently reach as far as replacing the top management of the state oil and gas monopoly, Naftogaz Ukrayiny, and eventually even breaking it. (This could lay the ground for UESU to become an active role in the gas market.) Naftogaz board chairman Ihor Bakay was forced to resign in March after Tymoshenko blamed him for accumulating a US$2 billion debt to Russia. Tymoshenko continued her offensive in late April, accusing Naftogaz of cheating the state out of 650 million hryvnias (US$120 million) by conducting transaction with eight privatized regional power distribution companies (Oblenergos) via Ukrainian Credit Bank. The cabinet of ministers cancelled the transaction on May 5.

Tymoshenko's move, however, may do her more harm than good. The Oblenergos in question, as well as the bank, is controlled by the financial-industrial group led by Deputy Parliament Speaker Viktor Medvedchuk and MP Hryhoriy Surkis, whose party, United Social Democrats (USDP), is a leading member of the pro-presidential majority in parliament. USDP has long been pushing for Tymoshenko's dismissal.

Reactions to the cancellation have been heated. Naftogaz acting chairman Ihor Didenko called a news conference on May 10 to deny that the transaction damaged the state, and called on the authorities to check the company's operations to confirm their legality. He alleged that Tymoshenko attacked as a way of exacting revenge on Naftogaz for its refusal to pay its outstanding debt to a UESU affiliate. Medvedchuk also went on the defensive, denying his group's participation in privatizing the energy market, saying that USDP had never demanded Tymoshenko's dismissal.

He made a point of adding that he and those he represented want Premier Viktor Yushchenko to retain his post until the end of President Kuchma's term in office. The reference to Yushchenko was pointed. USDP has been so far very critical of his reform efforts, especially those in the energy field. At the government's April 19 energy meeting, Kuchma suggested that Tymoshenko might be dismissed, whereupon Yushchenko reportedly threatened to resign. Kyiv needs Yushchenko in the government, however, or it risks any chance of receiving international loans. Yushchenko has apparently pinned his hopes on Tymoshenko's energy reform plan, though international lenders are somewhat wary about it.

On April 26, the World Bank spoke out against Tymoshenko's intention to forbid Oblenergos from collecting electricity payments — a key point of her plan. Unable to reach a compromise on Tymoshenko's reform package with the international financial organizations, the cabinet refused to approve it. Then, on May 12, Yushchenko openly expressed doubt about whether such a plan is even necessary. Fuel and Energy Minister Serhiy Tulub, an influential figure who, incidentally, went straight to Kuchma to voice his strong objections, supported him.

It would seem that Tymoshenko is losing ground to the government despite gaining it against the oligarchs in the energy market. She has registered as a candidate for the by-election to parliament, scheduled for June — a sign that she is unsure of her future in the government. By keeping Tymoshenko on board, Yushchenko keeps the feud between her and the rival oligarchs running, weakening them both, while keeping himself safely outside the battle lines. This, however, hinders reforms in the energy sector.

Ukraine producing improved versions of Soviet tanks

(UNIAN Monitor)—The concern Bronetekhnika Ukrainy (Ukrainian Armor) plans to set up in Jordan a plant which would produce tanks and other armored vehicles for Middle Eastern countries and service those countries' armor inventories.

The plan grew out of two recent successes of the Ukrainian producer. In February of this year, edging out competitors from other countries, Bronetekhnika Ukrainy sold 50 BTR-94 armored personnel carriers to Jordan, adding a long-term contract to service and supply spare parts for the APCs and to train the technicians and maintenance crews. In March-April, Bronetekhnika passed the test of converting, within only six weeks, a mothballed British Centurion tank into an up-to-date battlefield-fighting vehicle. Showcased at the SOFEX — an international arms fair in Amman last month, the tank should appeal to those Middle Eastern countries looking to overhaul their old Centurions.

The Ukrainian concern is better known for its capacity to produce modern versions of Soviet-type tanks and other armored vehicles. It currently offers production of updated T-72 and T-84 battle tanks featuring a more powerful, 1,200 HP engines, improved armor and fire control systems, and is working with a Swiss company on joint production of a tank gun prototype that meets NATO standards. Prospective customers for these tanks are the former Soviet arms clients worldwide, whose national inventories are on the threshold of obsolescence and who look for cost-effective ways of overhauling those inventories.

Last month, the Ukrainians demonstrated their updated T-84 tank at the international fair for armor vehicles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in head-on competition with the Russian T-90C for Southeast Asian customer countries.

In Central Europe, countries which recently joined or aspire to join NATO are planning to modernize their Soviet-type T-72 and T-84 tanks without Russian assistance. They are consequently interested in the Ukrainian improvements to those tanks. According to Ukrainian arms industry executives, the United States shares that interest as part of NATO plans to upgrade Central European countries' armor inventories in accordance with NATO standards.

Officially established in July 1999, Bronetekhnika Ukrainy consists of approximately 30 specialized production plants and design bureaus, led by the Malyshev plant and Morozov design bureau, both in Kharkiv, and authorized to deal directly with foreign customers. The Malyshev plant's delivery of battle tanks to Pakistan in 1998-99, on a supply and service contract worth more than US US$600 million, was the first major Ukrainian breakthrough on the international arms market. That success disproved the skepticism displayed mainly by Russian firms, which supply Pakistan's rival India as well as some of the markets into which Ukraine is now moving.

Ukraine seems determined to capitalize on its competitive advantages in this sector as a way of gathering badly needed hard currency revenue.

Odesa seeks to attract foreign investment

(Eastern Economist)—The Odesa Regional Investment Promotion Bureau (IPB) held its third roundtable on "Regional experience in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Ukrainian economy" with 35 participants May 11-12.

Speakers from MinEcon, the EC, Tacis, UEPLAC, Oblast Administration, the UNDP, DerzhKomZem, British Know-How Fund, the Tax Administration of the US FCS, Yuzhniy Port, and private businesses touched topics such as changes in legislation, obstacles to FDI, long-term strategies and investment priorities.

TA organizations reported on their investment activities and programs. One of the critical areas for immediate action is improvement in effective management skills since this is a major deterrent to doing business.

As of January 2000, Ukraine received only US$3.25 billion in FDI, 55% of it into production — 70% if municipal Kyiv is excluded.

Odesa oblast has attracted barely 5% of that, $174.4 million for 532 enterprises as of January 2000 and only $58.7 million or 34% for production.

The IPB has published a 120-page investment profile of the region.

Odesa-Brody pipeline 70% complete

(Eastern Economist)—The implementation of Caspian oil transportation project Baku-Supsa-Odesa-Brody-Gdansk is profitable for Ukraine as well as Azerbaijan, stated Foreign Minister Borys Tarasiuk after his meeting with his Azeri counterpart Vilayat Muhtarogly Guliev who is on an official visit to Ukraine.

Tarasiuk added that the pipeline is 70% complete to the Western border however it is too early to talk about the date of completion. Construction on the pipeline started in October 1996.

As of March 2000, 472 km of the total 667 km were completed. Total value of the project is US$465.4 million with the capacity to transport 40 million tons of crude oil per year.

The completion of the pipeline will allow for an increase in the oil transporting capacity of Ukraine to Europe from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and other Middle Asian countries.

NBU changes bank account procedure

(Eastern Economist)—The National Bank of Ukraine board on May 12 approved changes to the instructions on the procedure for opening and using bank accounts.

Prior to opening bank accounts for companies where documents can be signed and counter-signed by foreigners or those without citizenship, banks must be presented with documents proving that the foreigner is legally residing in Ukraine and holds a valid work permit.

The copy of an agreement on setting up a business is to be notarized if one of the cofounders is a person.

The agreement on opening a personal deposit account must contain a tax ID code or a photocopy of a passport page with the stamp showing that the person has refused to get such number due to religious convictions.

Briefly

Canada leads in Ivano-Frankivsk

(Eastern Economist)—The total Foreign Direct Investment in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast is US$37 million. During the first quarter of 2000 the investments were $700,000. The largest investments came from Canada — 30.5%, and Germany — 23.3%.

Incomes increase 37%

(Eastern Economist)—The income of the population during the first quarter of 2000 was Hr 17.011 billion while expenditures and savings were 17.048 billion stated the State Statistics Committee. Expenditures were Hr 37 million higher than official revenues which is explained by the shadow economy factor, stated the experts. The revenues of the population increased by 37% from the first quarter of 1999 due to the increase in the average wage. The average monthly revenue per person was Hr 113.6, up from Hr 81.4 during the first quarter of 1999.

Privatization of power supplies decreed

(RFE/RL)—President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree on the privatization of more regional power distributors, Interfax reported on May 15. The state has so far sold more than 75 percent of the shares in seven of Ukraine's 27 regional power suppliers. Kuchma's decree allows the sale of more than 75 percent of shares in another eight companies, more than 60 percent in 10, and more than 50 percent in two.

Frost destroys spring crops

(Eastern Economist)—Agricultural crops on an area of 200,000 hectares were destroyed by temperatures as low as -8 degrees Celsius in Kharkiv Oblast May 1-3. The crops most affected include grain, sunflower, and vegetables, with losses estimated at Hr 40 million.

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Scherbak pledges to strengthen ti

Cont. from P. 9

tual benefit and to resolve the issue of the Black Sea Fleet. We have established a strategic partnership with the United States, a special partnership with Canada, and a special partnership with NATO.

"In fact, Ukraine has become a pillar of security and stability in Europe.

"Such conditions have enabled the Ukrainian leadership, and President Kuchma personally, to proclaimed integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures as the main strategic course for the nation.

"Eighty percent of Ukrainian youth strongly support this way to the future in 21st Century," he said.

Scherbak said that before his departure for his new posting, Kuchma stressed that relations with Canada are a priority in Ukrainian foreign policy.

"He underscored that we, Ukrainians, will never forget that Canada was the first Western country to recognize the independent Ukraine.

"Canada has helped us very much in securing worldwide recognition, in establishing ourselves in the framework of international organizations, in strengthening good relations with NATO. President Kuchma now expects a boost in our relations, both in the po and, particularly, in the economic sphere."

CORRECTION

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